

What to call a church? "Baptist" is debatable

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — To "B" or not to "B" is a question new Southern Baptist churches face as they choose names for their congregations.

That's "B" as in Baptist, of course. The question is whether to include the word Baptist in a church's name. When debated between traditional Southern Baptists and their children, it is a question of Shakespearean proportions.

Traditionalists argue a church should proudly identify its denominational affiliation in its name. Others counter they are not ashamed of their denominational affiliation but realize the word Baptist has negative connotations for some unchurched people.

Those opposed to dropping Baptist from church names contend the unchurched will like the label once they learn its significance. Those in favor of generic names counter that may be too late, that the name of a church may determine whether an unchurched person is willing to visit for the first time.

Earlier this year, a question about church names was posed to readers of *The Baptist Program*, a publication of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The printed responses typify the debate.

Barry Watts, pastor of Columbia's Woodcrest Chapel in Columbia, Mo., wrote in favor of generic names for some churches. "If I were starting a new church in the South, I'd put Baptist all over it. But outside the Bible Belt, the words Southern Baptist conjure up too many questionable images."

"Some would argue that failing to put a denominational label on our churches is not being who you are," he wrote. "But the bigger issue is really reaching them where they are. If the words Southern and Baptist stand in the way of reaching people, then call yourself something neutral."

William Hann, pastor of Mid-Cities Baptist Church in Westminster, Calif., took the opposite view. "It may be more difficult initially to reach people in California with the name Baptist, but in my opinion it is a more honest approach."

"We need to expose people to the sound doctrines, rich history, and vibrant mission program that the name Baptist represents and eliminate the negative aspects by modeling intelligent, biblical scholarship in the pulpit and reaching out into the community with creative approaches."

By most accounts, the debate about name dropping got its strongest impetus about 30 miles from Hann's church — at Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif. Pastor Rick Warren, a lifelong

Southern Baptist, started that church 12 years ago with the specific goal of reaching Baby Boomers turned off by traditional churches.

Since that time, the Saddleback Valley church has become the largest Southern Baptist church in the state and now leads the state convention in baptisms. Warren has become Baptists' unofficial — and sometimes controversial — authority on how to reach Baby Boomers.

Contrary to what his critics sometimes claim, Warren does not advocate dropping the word Baptist from every church's name. "If I were in the South, I'd put Baptist in my name," he says.

"Labels have value and labels have detractors. You have to decide who you're trying to impress."

"No denominational title attracts people any more. They look for a church that ministers to their needs," he says.

Church growth analyst and author Lyle Schaller admits he has agonized over how to respond to questions about contemporary church names. "Words like Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Baptist are exclusionary words" to modern ears, he confesses. "This runs against what I feel in my gizzard, but it is a reality."

"I feel very strongly that you should accept and affirm your denominational affiliation," he says. "But if you're trying to reach people who have no church background, have left the church, or have a different religious background, then the word Baptist is going to be more of a hindrance than a help."

Although the debate rages hottest on the West Coast, it has reached the South as well. The Church at Brook Hills, a congregation meeting near Birmingham, Ala., left Baptist out of its name for the same reasons as Warren's church.

Several state conventions restrict loan funds or other financial support from churches without Baptist in their names. For example, in Arizona, churches started with any Cooperative Program funding are required to include Baptist in their names.

"To parade under an ambivalent banner is unethical," says Bob Warren, state director of missions in Arizona. "This is deceptive and contrary to the nature of the church."

"Whatever a church does to entice people to join, it must also do to keep them. It is difficult to help them be Baptist when you have impressed them that it is not important at the onset."

Wingfield writes for HMB. Sarah Zimmerman, who writes for HMB, and Mark Baggett contributed to this story.

Philippine men overpower missionary, steal her car

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — A group of men overpowered Southern Baptist missionary Doris Blattner in front of her Manila apartment house, then forced her into her own car and eventually stole it from her.

Blattner was getting out of her car at about 11 a.m. June 25 when three or four men appeared, snatched her keys, and forced her into the back seat, according to a report she filed with local police. The men pressed her face down to the floorboard with her feet up, covered her eyes and drove around for about 20 minutes. Then they pushed her out of the car, saying

they wanted to use it for a while.

Police were still looking for the mission-owned car the next day. Blattner, 57, sustained minor bruises but was generally unharmed, said missionary administrator Sam Waldron. Mission officials believe robbery was the only motive.

Blattner, of St. Louis, has worked as a religious education promoter in the Philippines since 1988. Before that she was a missionary to Indonesia for 24 years. She was the first in a string of 50 Southern Baptist missionaries to leave Indonesia after the government established a policy limiting resident visas for missionaries to 10 years.

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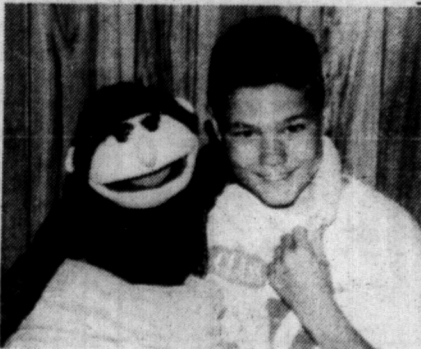
Published Since 1877

Mississippi WMU hosts Illinois volunteers in Choctaw partnership



(Photos by Shannon Simpson)

WMU volunteers from Illinois and Mississippi conducted Backyard Bible Clubs and evening Vacation Bible Schools at the Choctaw Indian Reservation, Neshoba County, June 17-21. The 18 participants also held afternoon sewing classes, blood pressure checks, and children's choir leadership training. Top left, Ella McAnally, First Church, Belmont, and Carmen Jones, First Church, Washington, Ill., lay out materials for a sewing class at Pearl River Community Church. Bottom, Daniel Fulton and his friend "Jack" demonstrate routines for puppet shows Daniel conducted during the week. He is the son of Keith Fulton, pastor of County Line Church, Union. Top right, Margie Gibson, member of Pearl River Community Church, trims a pattern. Right, volunteers Cammie Tidwell, Morrison Heights, Clinton, Joy Ellis, and Mae Hardin, both of FBC, Winona, line children up for VBS at Old Canaan Church. Bottom right, Karen Springer of Second Church, Marion, Ill., Becky Arnett of First Church, McLeansboro, Ill., and Beverly Campbell, Blooming Grove Church, McLeansboro, Ill., stock food shelves at the Baptist Indian Center. The center also operates a clothing bank supervised by Lee Bacon, interim director, New Choctaw Association. Other volunteers include, from Mississippi: Betty Moore, Summit, Smithdale; JeNell Doler and Beth Powell, First, Winona; Betty Duck and Carol Ginn, Liberty Church; Ruby Foster, Unity, Magnolia; Mary Jo Latham, Heuck's Retreat, Brookhaven; Lola Autry, Pine Grove, Hickory Flat; Connie Bunch, Country Woods, Jackson; and from Illinois, Ruth Johnson of College Heights Church, Carmi, Ill.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The sound of music

It was my privilege to attend the 50th Birthday of the SBC Church Music Department at Ridgecrest in June. And what a party! The singing shook the rafters, the choir was superb, and it was mentioned as a preview of singing in heaven.

A Mississippian, T. L. Holcomb, was the executive director of the Sunday School Board and led the way in establishing the Church Music Department in 1941. Since then, millions of church music leaders have heeded God's call to study, train, and develop their talents.

Prior to this, music training was left up to the seminaries and the "singing schools." I. E. Reynolds, B. B. McKinney, E. O. Sellers, and Robert Coleman laid a strong foundation. Others would follow such as Mabel Boyter, Warren Angel, Plunkett Martin, and W. Hines Sims to strengthen the work. In 1941 B. B. McKinney became the secretary of the Department of Church Music. Music missionaries were sent out in 1951 by the Foreign Mission Board and New Orleans Seminary offered the Bachelor of Sacred Music that same year. New

hymnbooks have been published periodically with The Baptist Hymnal being the latest. Wesley Forbis, present director of the Church Music Department, is the editor of the newest and largest hymnbook published by the Sunday School Board.

Meanwhile in Canaan's fair and happy land, Mississippians had been singing for years. Words of hymns were usually passed on to the next generation but in 1805, Jeremiah Ingalls published melodies, notes, tunes, and all. Camp meetings were quite popular and the man who could "set a tune" was appointed in each congregation. Singing schools were much in demand with the singing "masters" traveling over a wide area. By 1850 musical conventions and the Sacred Harp associations dominated the music scene. The "do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do" still makes a lot of harmony for some of us. Gwen Hitt in We Shall Come Rejoicing, a history of Baptist church music in Mississippi, gives a full history of this era.

Blessed were the shaped notes as Stamps-Baxter cut a wide swath

across Dixie. Videt Polk of Pass Christian and J. B. Coats of Jones County ran the "Pineywoods" singing schools in Mississippi. Coats wrote "Where Could I Go" and 150 other songs which were well-known worldwide, and Coats was eulogized by Paul Harvey in later years.

In 1945 Luther Harrison became state music director. He was followed by W. C. Morgan, 1951-1964, and Dan Hall, 1964-1987. Graham Smith is the current Music Department director. Last year more than 6,222 were involved in training sessions as the "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" continued.

The first real hymnal in most of our churches was Robert Coleman's Modern Hymnal, followed by the Broadman Hymnal in 1940, Baptist Hymnal in 1975, and The Baptist Hymnal in 1991. Now and then you still find Radio Gospel Pearls No. 4 tucked away in some of the old churches. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" has been the most popular hymn in all of them. Happy Birthday to the SBC Church Music Department and to the counterparts in Mississippi.

How to convert your house

Real estate agents will cringe at the thought, but you can make your home favor a barn for just a few pennies a day. Architects will have apoplexy, but what do they know about barns? I've seen the new barn look from Biloxi to Byhalia, including my own. Take out the floor, and a horse would feel right at home.

You can always expect this when you see a stripped sewing machine near the carport, supporting a No. 3 washtub filled with verbena. Near the back door is an old trunk which had barely made it to the barn the first time; how it made it from the barn to the house and back is beyond me. The wife had talked about it being "antique" and "very much in fashion." I muttered something about "one man's trunk is a woman's treasure," ... ducking beneath the elongated well-bucket, I neatly side-stepped a trash can made from a nail keg and stepped directly into a cow trough filled with pansies.

Over the brick fireplace was an ox yoke, varnished and waxed. An ancient picture of a patriarch was framed by a horse collar looking every bit as uncomfortable as the previous occupant. A hand-painted cross-cut saw was arched around the bay window through which you could see the turning plow supporting the mailbox.

A milk can served as a bar-stool and a coal bucket was the magazine rack. A picture of a crowing rooster, with a red barn in the background, and framed out in rustic one-by-fours, adorned the breakfast nook. The bits of a mule bridle helped in suspending a running japonica to the ceiling. On the back porch, two singletrees and a wagon tongue were attached to the wall. Wooden pegs had been inserted and held an assortment of plows, a

half-sweep, the top of the seed-planter, and an unidentified piece of cable. A half-dozen marble door knobs, looking very much like setting eggs, graced the center of a periwinkle pot which was hanging by a trace chain from the singletree.

Five assorted straw hats decorated the inside wall of the entrance way and down-turned Mason jars lined the short side walk. The slatted church bench (a la Camp Garaywa) made it possible to sit and view the white painted wash pot filled with cape jasmine. Two 16-penny nails supported the bamboo fishing poles.

In the pink?

Edison, in perfecting the light bulb, tried over one thousand items from which he might make the filament. He then remarked: "Now I know a thousand things that won't work." A sense of humor is much to be desired in every endeavor. Abraham Lincoln wrote: "With the fearful strain that is on me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die."

Tell a man he has no sense of humor and he will be insulted. Justly so. Every time a man smiles, but even more so when he laughs, it adds something to his life. Thackeray noted: "Good humor is one of the best articles of dress one can wear in society."

Lord Nelson said: "I could not tread the perilous paths in safety if I did not keep a saving sense of humor." Since worrying about a thing accomplishes nothing, why not call upon your sense of humor?

With a sense of humor, you're in the pink.

But it's not so common as many think! — Benton E. Cain

The ironing board was converted into a book shelf and two flat irons increased their value as bookends. Assorted snuff bottles were turned so you could check the dots on the bottom. She had stitched a happy face on the clothespin bag though there was no sign of a clothes line. An arrangement of corn shucks was in a quart milk bottle, and the gourd dipper was in the hanging water bucket, suspended by cotton scales. What progress! I recall how rich we felt when we could afford our first tin dipper. Pappa would feel a lot better about his son if he could see this.

It's a far cry from the day when the barn was a barn and the house was spic and span. Linoleum covered our kitchen floor, and we used a pretty glass frog for a paperweight, not a 48 ounce anvil. Two funeral home fans covered the coffee table, and the corn sheller was backed up in a corner with a jacket hanging on it. A sage broom wrapped with the remains of a punctured inner tube stood by the fireplace. Artificial flowers grew from the inside of the cast iron kettle, the top slightly ajar. Under this was the churn, dasher still in place. The panel was complete with a rub board hung on the wall and a Cardui calendar taped along the bottom.

People were considered classy to have the water bucket on the front gallery in the olden days. It's amazing the way young couples will admire it today and then head for the country looking for a barn that hasn't been ripped off yet.

I drove away from the house, past the old emptied barn. Nothing unusual here until I saw the horse drinking from a bath tub. Common horse sense will tell you, things have changed. — GH

"RUMOR HAS IT THAT IF THE OFFERINGS DON'T PICK UP, HE'S GOING TO HIT US WITH THE MOTHER OF ALL TITHING SERMONS!"



Nomination of Draper

Next week, there will be a special meeting of the 93-member board of trustees of the SBC Sunday School Board to consider the nomination of James Draper, 55, pastor of First, Euless, Texas, as president. If elected, he will succeed Lloyd Elder who recently accepted forced retirement.

This is one of the most important positions in our Convention. The Sunday School Board is not only the catalyst in Christian education, but often sets the outreach and

theological patterns of thinking for thousands of churches. We need a man of vision who relates well with others. James Draper could well be the man. At this particular time in the Convention, he is probably the best man for the job.

Draper has been characterized as a reconciler and seeks to be a unifying force in the Convention. All of us can assuredly agree that such a man is needed. — GH

Giants' Dave Dravecky

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP) — Dave Dravecky, Former San Francisco Giants baseball pitcher and author of the best-selling autobiography *Comeback*, is recuperating from surgery June 18 to remove his left arm and shoulder due to cancer.

"This is for the best," said Dravecky, a left-handed pitcher who made a miraculous comeback in 1989 after surgery to remove a cancerous tumor which took most of his muscle used for pitching as well. Dravecky pitched a 4-3 winning game in Candlestick Park August 10, 1989, but five days later during a game in Montreal, Dravecky's arm made an audible crack when it broke under the strain of a pitch. Dravecky collapsed, and it was weeks before he was able to play again. A second break to the same bone convinced him to retire at the end of the season, when he took time to write his book.

Just before the surgery, Dravecky issued a statement to thank all those "across the country who have graciously expressed their concern for me and my family during the past two years. As we face this latest trauma in my life, it is with God's peace that I am as prepared as one can be to face the loss of my arm. Throughout this entire battle with cancer and the infections in my arm, I have had, and continue to have, the wonderful assurance that God is in control of my life."

Dravecky said his three young

children do not understand fully what is happening to their daddy, but "I have assured them that it won't hurt when the doctor removes my arm because I will be asleep!"

He added, "I am certain that this has been most difficult for my wife, Jan. She has been the underlying strength throughout this entire time for myself as well as our children. Her faith in God and his strength has enabled her to serve above and beyond the call of duty. She deserves a medal, and I would very much appreciate everyone's prayers for her."

After the surgery, Dravecky said, "Jan and I want to thank everyone for their prayers and concern. Your prayers have been truly felt. . . . Please continue to pray for us as my family and I need to continue to draw our strength from the Lord."

This surgery marks the fifth procedure Dravecky has undergone since cancer was diagnosed in his left arm in 1988. He has also undergone several weeks of radiation treatment and several months of treatment for staph and strep infections.

"Dave and his family are doing well," said Sealy M. Yates, Dravecky's agent, who spoke to him the day after surgery. "They see this development as a relief as much as anything. They just want Dave to get well." Yates added that "it is vital that Dave be allowed personal time during the next two months. When he feels up to it, Dave will be available to the media and the public."

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WMU offers conferences for four language groups

By Karen Benson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)— June 22-28 was a week of "firsts" for Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union during its annual WMU Conference at Ridgecrest N.C. Baptist Conference Center:

— The Ridgecrest meeting was the first to be presided over by national WMU President Carolyn Miller following her election to the post June 3 in Atlanta.

— The week marked the first time a conference had been offered in four languages at either Glorieta or Ridgecrest conference centers — in English, Spanish, Korean, and sign language.

— And members of the first Baptist Young Women Enterprisers Abroad team were commissioned for their Sept. 2-10 Bible distribution and witnessing project in the Soviet Union.

More than 1,800 people participated in the week of training and general interest conferences, Bible studies, worship services, missions vespers, and concerts — all centered around the WMU emphasis of "Called and Accountable" for the upcoming 1991-92 church year.

During the week, conferees gave \$4,058.32 in a special offering for the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving to support its missions, evangelistic and educational programs domestically and abroad.

Every general session was translated simultaneously from English into the three languages. Additionally, training and general interest conferences were led in Korean, Spanish, and sign language by Korean, Hispanic, and deaf leaders,

she said.

"The Korean conferences were led by three Korean women, the Spanish conferences were led by three Hispanics, and the conferences for the deaf were led by Sue Hill of Arlington, Texas, who is deaf, herself," Diaz said.

Other ethnic groups represented at WMU Week included 50 blacks, three Vietnamese, and four Chinese, she said.

"This is beautiful!" Diaz said of the language opportunities, which WMU began advertising to the ethnic groups about two years ago. Some state WMU offices helped encourage ethnic participants by offering scholarships to the conference, Diaz said.

In an impromptu commissioning service, WMU leaders commissioned six Baptist Young Women who were (See WMU on page 4)



Giglio



Wood

Youth Night: July 26

The annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Night will take place Friday, July 26, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Featured speaker will be Louie Giglio of Waco, Tex. Paul Smith of Euless, Tex., will be music leader. And comedian Doug Wood of Garland, Tex., will perform.

Pre-program activities begin at 6:40. The session begins at 7.

Purpose of the program is to encourage Christians and to reach the lost for Christ. So young people are encouraged to bring their unsaved or inactive friends.

There should be one adult sponsor for every seven youths.

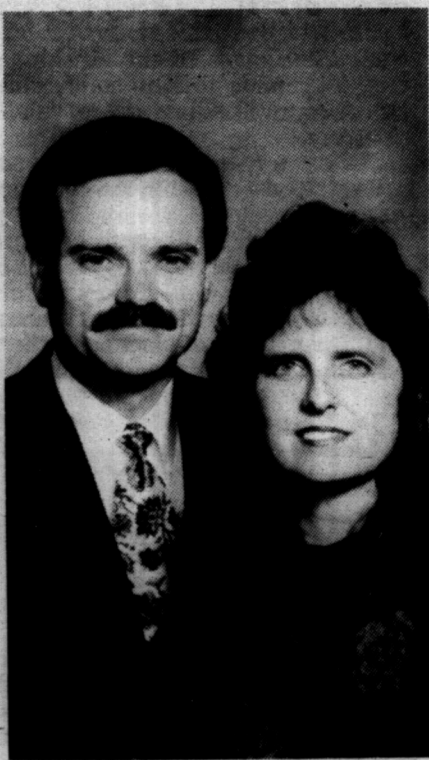
Since the program traditionally brings in more than 10,000 youths, this year there will be overflow seating available in the nearby Mississippi Trademart building.



Smith

Interpretation for the deaf will be provided.

There is no cost for this event. Expenses are provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which is the sponsor.



Mr. and Mrs. Parker

FMB appoints Mississippians

RICHMOND, Va. — Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Parker, Mississippians, were among 37 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board June 18 at Tabernacle Church in Richmond, Va.

The Parkers will live in Zimbabwe, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

He attends Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, and since 1989 he has been pastor of Morgantown Church in Natchez.

Born in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Parker is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ledger Parker of Philadelphia. While growing up he also lived in Yazoo City. He considers Eden Church in Yazoo City his home church.

He received the associate of arts degree from Holmes Community College in Goodman; the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi State University; and the master of divinity

degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is in the doctor of ministry degree program at Reformed Seminary.

He has been pastor of Fellowship Church in Meridian and Cruger Church, Cruger.

Born and reared in Canton, Mrs. Parker, the former Shiela Tucker, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Tucker of that city. She considers Center Terrace Church there her home church.

She received the associate of arts degree from Holmes Community College and the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University.

The Parkers have four children: Elisha Amy, born in 1980; Emily Frances, 1982; Ledger Charles, 1984; and Jeffrey Rothell II, 1985. The family will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

Thomases: Romania-bound

By Mike Creswell

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP) — Charles and Kathie Thomas will become the first Southern Baptist missionaries to live in Romania in more than half a century when they take up residence in Bucharest this September.

The Thomases, missionaries to France since 1976, have accepted an invitation from the Romanian Baptist Union to represent Southern Baptists and work in evangelism and educa-

tion projects in the Bucharest area.

Thomas, from Atlanta, is better known by his nickname, "T." She was born in Cynthia, Ky., and grew up in that state and in South Carolina.

"It is a leap into the unknown with a lot of faith," Thomas said of the transfer.

But Thomas had high praise for the estimated 80,000 Baptists of Romania. "They are the warmest, most (See ROMANIA on page 8)

Whittens will coordinate statewide prayer ministry

By Tim Nicholas

Beginning Aug. 1, Mississippi Baptists will begin a coordinated statewide effort at a prayer ministry.

On that date two things happen: Charles and Indy Whitten, retired career missionaries, will begin work as prayer coordinators for the convention board, and a telephone number for receiving prayer requests goes into operation.

The Whittens will have an office at the Baptist Building in Jackson. They will be available to work with associations and churches in developing intercessory prayer ministries.

Said Bill Causey, executive director of the MBCB, "We hope there will be

a statewide network of praying churches and people deeply and personally committed to the spiritual needs of our state and world."

The phone number at the Baptist Building will be 969-PRAY (969-7729). The number is to register prayer requests, prayer answers, and prayer testimonies. Ultimately, prayer requests will go into a statewide and even worldwide network of mutual support.

To model and encourage prayer ministry in local churches, Causey had opened a prayer room in the Baptist Building. Employees are encouraged to take time to go to the

prayer room and pray for the various needs which are recorded in a prayer book there.

The Whittens, who spent most of their careers working in Spain, will work with the 35 associations which have prayer ministry coordinators, encouraging the other 40 associations to place a person into that position.

Charles Whitten said that they hope to involve more people in the church in prayer. "Kingdom praying is wider than local needs," he said.

"God includes us in his program to be witnesses," said Charles. "In the same way, to be pray-ers, we

cooperate with God through praying," he said.

The couple is available to lead prayer retreats or training meetings in churches or associations.

Said Charles, "We don't think of ourselves as experts on prayer. Through the years, we have been recipients of prayer. Now we feel we have a great debt we can begin to repay."

The Whittens are subjects of a biography, *Sent to Love*, written by Anne Washburn McWilliams, associate editor of the Baptist Record, and published by WMU, SBC.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



Charles and Indy Whitten

Polish Baptists cry 'foul' on church property seizures

By Mike Creswell

WARSAW, Poland (BP) — Polish Baptist leaders are crying "foul" over delays in the return of Baptist church properties from the Polish government, even as 2,000 properties are being returned to the powerful Roman Catholic Church.

The church buildings were seized by the communist government after World War II. Now, since Poland has adopted a democratic government, a move is on to restore such properties to church groups.

According to recent press reports in Warsaw, the government already has approved the return of 56 Catholic properties and Catholic authorities have filed more than 1,500 applications on other properties. They expect to file at least 500 more applications later, reports stated. At least 90 percent of Poland's people are said to be Catholic.

Meanwhile, the government has not responded to requests made in early 1990 by leaders of the Baptist Union in Poland to return a handful of church properties seized after the war.

"Now it's 1991 and they don't tell us no, they don't tell us yes," said Igor Barna, Baptist general secretary. "They tell us nothing. Since the government has changed, they tell us we're low priority."

Barna criticized a new Polish law governing the return of church properties because it applies only to the

Roman Catholic Church and not to other groups such as Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists and the Polish National Catholic Church, a church not affiliated with Roman Catholics.

A law that would return seized Orthodox church properties passed one house of the Polish parliament but hasn't emerged from the second.

Three buildings once owned by Baptists are in Lodz, Poland's second largest city. One is used by Roman Catholics, one by the Polish National Catholic Church, and the third has become a movie theater.

Barna and Wiazowski said a combination of complex historical events, the growing power of the Roman Catholic Church, and the current unsettled condition of the Polish government will make recovery of the properties difficult.

The property issue highlights fears by non-Catholic church leaders the Roman Catholic Church is moving aggressively to resume its dominant role in Polish life.

For a decade the Catholic Church aligned itself with the Solidarity trade union movement, which ultimately brought down Poland's communist government and led the nation to adopt a democratic government. Now, about 75 percent of members of the Solidarity-controlled Senate describe themselves as active or devout Catholics.

To Baptist onlookers, the picture is simple to analyze: "The Catholic Church controls Parliament. It can block the appointment of people. The Senate now looks to the Catholic Church for decisions instead of to the Communist Party," charged Wiazowski.

Baptists also fear they could lose the church properties they now have. "We're always worried about losing properties," said Barna. "We're afraid of the Catholics taking it, or the government."

Baptists are rushing to occupy their new educational complex being built on the outskirts of Warsaw because they worry about losing control of the property, despite a solid claim to the land and the significant construction taking place, Wiazowski added.

One indication of renewed Catholic power is a deal worked out in 1990 in which Catholic priests are allowed to teach religion in the schools again. Another issue is the Catholic Church's determination to outlaw the estimated 500,000 abortions performed in Poland each year.

But the two Baptist leaders acknowledged they have seen a backlash among Poles against the growing influence of the Catholic Church. Attendance at Masses and other events during the recent visit of Pope John Paul II was much less than during his earlier visits, they said.

Creswell writes for FMB.

June gifts total \$1,262,500

Mississippi Baptists gave a total of \$1,262,500.95 through the Cooperative Program in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Board channels the funds to the various Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist causes approved during each year's Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The budget approved last November was \$20,949,962.

Thus far, for the first six months of the year, Mississippi Baptists have given \$10,284,623. This is \$44,412 less than for the same period of 1990.

This amount is also \$190,358 less than the pro rata amount. The pro rata budget would be the total budget divided by 12 and multiplied by the number of months elapsed in the year.

Staff changes

Kenneth Roberts has been called as interim pastor of New Hope Church, Magee, Simpson Association.

Scott Thomas has resigned as pastor of New Zion Church, Simpson Association, and has accepted the call to Parkerson Church, Crowley, La., effective July 21. The Jackson native is a graduate of Mississippi College, and will complete the master of divinity at New Orleans Seminary in July.

Randy Makemson of Quitman has been called as pastor of Cullomburg Church, Silas, Ala., effective July 21. The Alabama native presently serves Elim Church, Clarke Association. He holds the bachelor's degree from Mississippi College, and is studying with the New Orleans Seminary Extension in Clinton.

Mrs. Ben Cain, wife of BR printer, dies

Lorene Thornton Cain, 65, of 4244 Brussels Drive, Jackson, a homemaker, died of respiratory failure July 4 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. She was the wife of Benton Cain, who heads Cain Lithographers, printer of the Baptist Record.

Services were held July 6 at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home.

Mrs. Cain, a Brandon native, lived most of her life in Jackson. She was a member of First Church, Jackson, and an officer in Cain Lithographers.

She studied piano at Belhaven College, and received a bachelor's degree in piano from Louisiana State University.

She was a longtime member of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra where she and her husband were former duo piano soloists.

She belonged to the Round Table at First Church where she also was a longtime Sunday School teacher and advisor to the pre-school choir program.

She was a founding member of the Mississippi Polio Survivors Association.

Survivors in addition to her husband, are daughters, Lucy Hargis of Houston, Tex. and Mary Alicia Deloache of Nashville; sons, Michael and Duke Cain of Jackson; three sisters; and seven grandchildren.

WLBT to air documentary on prison inmates

A documentary about prison inmates whose lives have been changed after becoming Christians will be broadcast over television station WLBT, Jackson, at 12:30 p.m. on July 13.

"Set Free," hour-long documentary, is hosted by former Dallas Cowboys head football coach Tom Landry. It was produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Tex.

The documentary focuses on the stories of several inmates. One is in San Quentin, near San Francisco, the others in Texas prisons. One is a woman serving as an accessory to murder. The documentary includes a rare visit with an inmate on Texas' death row, where television cameras are not normally permitted.

Other scenes were shot at the Hospitality House, Huntsville, Tex., created by Texas Baptists to provide a place to stay as well as counseling for families who come to visit inmates.

Indiana calls Sullivan as executive director

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — A former Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee chairman and Tennessee pastor Charles Sullivan of Lenoir City, has accepted the unanimous call of the Indiana convention executive board as its executive director.

Sullivan was elected by the Indiana board in an executive session last week following the unanimous recommendation of a search committee which had met for five months. After the near three hour session in which they questioned Sullivan and then voted, he returned to accept the position and will assume it in late August.

Sullivan leaves a nine-year pastorate in Lenoir City, a suburb of Knoxville. While pastor of the 2,200-member congregation, Sullivan also spent seven years on the SBC Executive Committee. He rotated off the committee at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta and most recently served as chairman of the administrative subcommittee. He was chairman of the Executive Committee from 1987-1989.

Sullivan has also pastored First, Mexico, Mo.; First, Chickasha, Okla.; University, Arlington, Texas; Southland, Memphis, Tenn.; and First, Port Arthur, Texas.

Education Commission extends work of accreditation task force

By Tim Fields

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Members of the Southern Baptist Education Commission meeting in annual session voted to extend the work of a task force studying the feasibility of establishing a Southern Baptist accrediting agency and authorized a called meeting of the full commission in March 1992, to consider a report on accreditation to be presented to the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting next June.

The task force found two major concerns which surfaced during the study. The first concern is "There seems to be a perception that accrediting agencies such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada represent external forces which at times apply influences which prevent Baptist colleges and seminaries from being as distinctively Christian and Baptist as our Baptist constituencies want them to be."

The second concern was "the perception that Baptist colleges, universities, and seminaries may have drifted toward a theological and educational perspective which no longer reflects the posture of most Southern Baptists."

In its report to the convention the task force said, "The careful analysis given to the nature and purpose of accreditation seems to indicate that the formation of a separate Southern Baptist accrediting agency will not provide the effective mechanism to assure correction of any problems which may be perceived nor to prevent the scrutiny of other accrediting bodies."

WMU

From page 3

attending the conference at Ridgecrest and who will be among 28 BYWs participating in the first BYW Enterprises Abroad project this fall.

During the commissioning, national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien asked the congregation to help "hold the ropes" for the team by committing to pray for the team between now and the departure date, and then to pray daily for the team while they are abroad. Each person who committed to pray was given a small piece of rope to place in his or her Bible as a reminder.

The six BYWs commissioned are: Ellen McMillan, a BYW president from Fort Smith, Ark.; Jimmie Chapell, WMU associate for Acteens and BYW at the Georgia WMU office in

Atlanta; Deborah Brunt, an author and speaker from Corinth; Ele Clay, editor of Contempo magazine for WMU, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala.; Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women specialist for WMU, SBC; and Karen Benson, communications group manager for WMU, SBC. Clay and Mullins are the leaders of the BYW Enterprises Abroad trip.

The BYWs will be joined by about 25 Baptist Young Men for the Bible distribution and witnessing project. The team will travel to Moscow where they will split into two groups, one group going to Yalta, a small resort town on the Black Sea in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; the other group traveling to Frunze, a major city in the Kirghiz S.S.R., which shares a border with China.

Benson is communication manager, WMU.

WMU will offer training for leaders at Garaywa

Several options, as well as basic training for all church WMU leaders, will be offered by the Mississippi WMU Department this summer during its Annual Church WMU Leadership Training events, Aug. 12-20. Options include a conference on CONTACT, and a Literacy Training Workshop.

CONTACT is a new 12-week experience featuring Bible study, prayer, personal reflection, and suggestions for action. Participants experience life-changing growth in understanding God's plan for his world. Frances Downs from Shaw, will lead this introductory conference at Camp Garaywa, Aug. 13.

Juanita Schilling, Mendenhall, will lead the Literacy Training Workshop at Camp Garaywa, Aug. 15-16. She is an approved literacy consultant with the Home Mission Board. This over-

night conference is for anyone interested in learning to teach people to read. Cost is \$50, including registration fee, books, meals, and lodging. Participants must pre-register with the WMU Department by Aug. 1, by calling 968-3800.

Both of these options will be offered within the context of the church WMU Leadership Training at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, Aug. 12-17. In addition, there will be simultaneous training conferences at First Church, Tupelo, and First Church, Hattiesburg, Aug. 19 and 20. Night sessions Aug. 12, 13, and 19 begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. Day sessions, Aug. 13-17 and 20, begin 9:30 a.m. and conclude 2:30 p.m. Participants coming to Tupelo and Hattiesburg on Tuesday, Aug. 20, are requested to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be furnished.

Training will be offered at each location for leader of all WMU organizations in the church including Baptist Young Women, Acteens, Girls in Action, and Mission Friends.

Foreign Board assigns 65 to International Service Corps

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC has assigned 64 people to work overseas through the International Service Corps.

Three have Mississippi connections. Included are 52 college graduates ages 21-29 who are attending a journeyman orientation July 5-20 at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. Eight are assigned as married couples.

The new ISC group includes evangelism workers, educators, music promoters, and business managers. Their assignments will last from six months to two years. Eleven have been assigned through Cooperative Services International, in nations where missionaries do not work.

Mississippians are:

Russell Keyes: Most recently employed as a chaplain intern at Georgia Baptist Medical Center, Atlanta. Current address: 861 Franklin Road, Building 11, Apartment 35, Marietta, Ga. 30067. Education: Delta State University, B.S.W. '86; New Orleans Seminary, M.Div. '89. Church: Johnson Ferry, Mariet-

ta. Hometown: Clinton. Assigned as an English-language worker in Thailand for two years.

Ethan McCarty: He was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in the Philippines. Current address: Route 3, Box 155, Taylorsville, Ms. 39168. Education: Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, A.A. '86; University of Southern Mississippi, B.S. '90. Church: First, Soso, Assigned to Cooperative Services International as an English-language worker in Asia for two years.

Brenda Williams: Most recently employed as an English teacher at Southside Area Ministries, Fort Worth, Tex. Current address: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Box 22485, Fort Worth, Tx. 76122. Education: Northeast Mississippi Junior College, Booneville, A.A. '86; Union University, Jackson, Tenn. B.A. '88; Southwestern Seminary, M.A.R.E. '91. Church: Southwayside, Fort Worth. Hometown: Booneville. Assigned as a youth evangelism worker in France for two years.

Gulfshore Assembly will host church secretaries' conference

Secretaries who attend the Bible/Preaching/Administration Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 25-27, will receive nearly eight hours of specialized training to assist them in becoming better equipped for their tasks. In addition to the divided conferences, the participants will share in worship, learning experiences, and Bible study. The conference is sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Leading the sessions for church and associational secretaries will be Linda Jenkins, approved worker for the Church Administration Department. Jenkins has served as church secretary and secretary to the pastor at First Church, Yazoo City, since 1957.

The overall conference theme will be "The Church Secretary — a Noteworthy Ministry." Sessions will include information on stress management, time management,

balancing home/work responsibilities, basic business English, newsletters, and other publications. Two of the sessions will feature guest resource persons from the Gulf Coast area.

Rhonda Powell, a fashion, wardrobe, and make-up consultant will visit with the group Friday. David W. Spencer, pastor of Long Beach First Church, will be a resource person for the topic of staff relations and team ministry.

Secretaries are encouraged to send their registrations immediately. Lodging requests should be mailed to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Conference registration is to be sent to the Church Administration Department, Box 530, Jackson 39205. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Church Administration Department or by writing or calling Linda Jenkins, First Baptist Church, Box 780, Yazoo City 39194, telephone 746-2471.

Thursday, July 11, 1991

Cooperative Program gifts take big plunge in June

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program unified gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for the month of June dropped more than 17 percent compared to the same month last year.

The June gifts were 17.42 percent, or \$2,094,134, under the comparable June figure for 1990, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer. The \$9,927,427 channeled through the SBC Cooperative Program in June 1991 dropped the year-to-date total to 0.59 percent below last year.

SBC fiscal year is from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. After nine months of the 1990-91 fiscal year, Cooperative Program gifts were at \$105,642,489 compared to \$106,264,906 for the nine month period in 1989-90. The required basic budget monthly figure is \$11,444,377 and for the nine month's period, \$102,999,393.

Cooperative Program monthly figures for the year appear like a roller coaster on a chart. Just last month the CP gifts were up more than six percent over a year ago and the total gifts for the fiscal year were nearly two percent above the comparable 1990 figures.

Designated gifts also lagged behind a year ago for the month. At \$9,829,844,

the designated gifts fell \$3,834,610 below last June or 28.06 percent. Adding both CP and designated gifts, the shortfall for the month compared to last year was 23.08 percent or \$5,928,745.

Year-to-date designated gifts were nearly the same at this nine month period compared to last year: \$116,913,821 to \$116,852,503 for a 0.05 percent gain. Total CP and designated gifts for the fiscal year thus far are \$222,556,310 compared to \$223,117,410 in 1989-90.

Designated contributions include the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, world hunger, and other special gifts.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting ministry and missions through state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries.

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

Pastors' school will include seminars for pastors' wives



Street

When the second annual pastors' school at Mississippi College unfolds on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 8-9, there will be special activities for the wives of those involved.

Leading the special program for the women will be Bettye Coward, pro-

fessor and head of the Department of Home Economics and Physical Education, and Lynda L. Street, wife of James Street, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson and secretary in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College.

Coward will lead seminars for the wives on "Managing Time." Street will lead sessions titled "Called to be the Minister's Wife" and "Called to be the Real You."

The pastors' school is sponsored by Mississippi College in cooperation with various agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Pastors or other staff members needing additional information should call 925-3831 or write to P. O. Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 for written material.

Executive Committee search chairman asks for input

DURHAM, N.C. (BP) — Recommendations for the successor to President Harold C. Bennett of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee are being accepted now in written form and with full resumes, according to the chairman of the search committee, Julian M. Motley, a North Carolina pastor.

Bennett announced his retirement, effective in October of 1992, at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta earlier this month. He will be 68 at the time of his scheduled retirement.

A 10-member search committee was appointed at that time with Motley, pastor of Gorman Church in Durham, named chairman.

The committee requests the prayers and input of our Baptist people across the convention and asks that all recommendations be in writ-

ten form and accompanied by resumes containing full biographical and ministry information," Motley wrote in a letter to Baptist Press.

Recommendations should be sent to Motley at P.O. Box 15127, Durham, NC, 27704.

Motley said recommendations will be received through Aug. 1, 1991.

Members of the search committee (all Executive Committee members) are: Stan D. Coffey, Texas; Doyle J. Collins, Oregon; Ronnie W. Floyd, Arkansas; Gwyna S. Parker, Texas; Guy S. Sanders III, Florida; Simon H.L. Tsoi, Arizona; Joe B. Warwick, Tennessee; Fred H. Wolfe, Alabama; David E. Hankins, Louisiana; and Motley.

Hankins is chairman of the Executive Committee.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

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Too many Mississippi babies die

Far too many babies in Mississippi and the Deep South die before their first birthdays.

But infant mortality in Mississippi now faces a formidable foe — one the Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality calls "part of the solution to the problem of infants dying."

The foe: a new partnership between the religious community and the health care system, particularly the Mississippi State Department of Health. Borrowing from a familiar spiritual, they call the force Hold Out The Lifeline.

Some 200 clergy, other religious leaders, and health professionals from throughout the state participated this spring in a statewide ecumenical conference on infant mortality. Meeting organizers challenged participants to cement their commitment, consider their capacity, and plan their attack against infant mortality.

Fifteen thousand babies below age one died in the South in 1989 — 41 every day. And every year, more than 100,000 born in the South weigh less

than 5½ pounds; they are 40 times more likely to die in the first month of life than normal weight babies. They are also more likely to suffer birth defects, respiratory infections, developmental delays, and general illnesses.

An estimated 10 percent of infant deaths could be prevented by decreasing the number of unplanned pregnancies. Nearly one-fourth of the women who give birth within a year delay or fail to get prenatal care, even though 80 percent of those likely to deliver low-birthweight babies can be identified at their first prenatal visit and could take action to prevent the problem. Such early, appropriate, adequate prenatal care is the single greatest contributor to the birth of a healthy baby!

In addition to the ecumenical conference in Mississippi, the SRP funded development of a new 12-minute videotape that addresses religious involvement in early and comprehensive prenatal care. SPR premiered the videotape — "Hold Out The Lifeline"

— at Mississippi's ecumenical conference.

"The videotape presents a powerful public health message," said Nancy Kay Sullivan, Mississippi State Department of Health director of health communications and public relations. "The religious leaders — both clergy and lay people — and our public health professionals in Mississippi believe this tool can motivate many people who might otherwise not get involved in working to reduce infant mortality."

"Hold Out The Lifeline" explores why clergy should be involved in preventing infant mortality and describes how they can help.

Readers may purchase a copy of the videotape for \$40 or rent it for two weeks for \$25. A companion resource kit with information for sermons, bulletin inserts, a poster, and program ideas is available for \$15. Orders should be addressed to Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality, 444 N. Capitol Street, NW, Suite 240, Washington, D.C. 20001.



Johnson and McCaleb

McCaleb to conduct CONTACT conferences

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ashley McCaleb of Jackson, consultant, state WMU, has been trained to lead conferences and help churches or individuals interested in starting CONTACT.

CONTACT is a series of five 12-week personal spiritual growth plans for use by adult men and women as individuals or in groups. The first unit is now available through Baptist Book Stores. The last four units will be produced one a year for the next four years by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"The goal of CONTACT is to educate Christians about missions and about their responsibilities to do something with their faith. It is aimed primarily at individuals not involved in a missions organization, but can also be used by those who are," according to Trudy Johnson, churchwide specialist at national WMU in Birmingham, Ala., who conducts CONTACT training.

Gum Grove celebrates centennial

Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, Lincoln County, celebrated its centennial year on June 9. The church was organized on the second Sunday in June, 1891.

The first pastor was Zack Lofton. The present pastor, Sammy J. McDonald III, presented a plaque to the church, along with the centennial committee.

Mrs. Betty Keen, chairperson of the centennial, presented the 100th birthday directory, which contains a history of the church, memorable pictures, and listings of the Gum Grove membership, which has grown from 17 charter members in 1891 to 310 plus in 1991.

The plaques names all pastors of the church. A challenge sermon, special senior adult choral music, a big meal, and a presentation from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission by Talmadge E. Smith, director of missions, were all a part of the day of celebration and worship.

The centennial committee includes pastor, Sammy J. McDonald III, Brady Davis, Lucy Nettles, Audrey Cummins, Elmer Nettles, Regina East, Ethel Stewart, Frances Alred, and Betty Keen.

A time capsule will be buried this year as a part of the year-long series of events. The church has grown in professions of faith, baptisms, and membership during the centennial year.

Questions about CONTACT and CONTACT training should be directed to the Mississippi WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Grace Church encounters VBS summer explosion

Grace Church, Philadelphia, experienced a VBS summer explosion. Enrollment was 230, with average of 160 each night and 11 professions of faith.

Before the Bible school, Geneva Guess led a seminar, "How to Share Your Faith." Also, on Saturday before the VBS, the pastor, Dennis Duvall; VBS director, Janie Musgrove; and Bible School workers led in a

neighborhood canvas.

Some of the teachers were teaching for their first time in a VBS.

"We owe our big success to God's guidance and all the prayer that went into planning our Bible School," said Judy Lackey, VBS director, Grace Church.

"This is all exciting to us since we are a small church," she continued.

"Our church began in February of 1982 with around 47 members. We now have an enrollment of around 240. We are thankful for all of our members and their hard work. We are also thankful for our pastor and his wife Martha, for all their encouragement and hard work. Most of all, praise be to God, for without him none of the above would have been possible."



MC concert singers tour England

Twenty-five members of the Mississippi College Concert Singers have returned from their first performance tour of England. The choir presented concerts in Canterbury Cathedral, Yorkminster, Westminster Cathedral, and churches

in the Bristol area. The singers served as the service choir for morning worship at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The choir is directed by James Richard Joiner, head of the Department of Music at Mississippi College. (MC photo)

Bible-Preaching Conference set for July

The Bible-Preaching-Administration Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 25-27, will feature programs for ministers, their spouses, their children — infants through youth, for church and associational secretaries, for deacons, and for church weekday education workers.

There is no conference charge. The only expenses participants incur are room and board at Gulfshore, and transportation.

Session topics especially for staff leadership include "The Pastor as Leader," "Preaching as Worship," and "Seeing through God's Eyes."

To register for the conference, write Julius Thompson, Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800.

To make room reservations, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Phone 452-7261. Deposits of \$30 per person or \$60 per family unit are required with reservations. Ask about a special room rate for children during this particular conference.

Simultaneous to this conference, there will be separate sessions for church missions development representatives, for church media library workers, and for stewardship leaders.

Prayer, not ticker tape, urged for missionary heroes

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Prayer — not ticker tape parades — should characterize Southern Baptist response to missionaries engaged around the world in spiritual warfare, R. Keith Parks told trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

The Foreign Mission Board president noted the ticker tape parades that have greeted military personnel returning from Operation Desert Storm. But he said more than 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries are heroes of a different kind — heroes of commitment, integrity, expertise, and evangelism.

He recounted examples of missionaries who have worked to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people worldwide amidst danger, stress, and difficulty.

"Some of them, week after week, month after month, and even year after year, encounter . . . (situations) which deplete them emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually," Parks said. "We need to pray for them in times of discouragement and burnout and temptation and exhaustion and depression, and in times of victory, enjoyment, and excitement."

Missionaries set the tone for evangelism and church-starting, he said. For example, mission field baptisms show a ratio of one baptism for every 12 church members, compared to a ratio of one for every 42 in Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

And 2.6 million overseas Baptists showed a net growth of 2,880 churches in 1990, he added, while 15 million Southern Baptists recorded a net growth of 189 new churches.

Parks stressed his purpose was not "to make odious comparisons" but simply to show the strong evangelistic emphasis of missionaries and overseas Baptists.

On doctrinal integrity, Parks pointed out only two missionaries have been dismissed for this reason among the 4,000 long- and short-term personnel named in his 11 years as president.

"For anyone carelessly to make generalized derogatory statements about these missionaries and their commitments or beliefs is a sin against God, as well as fellow Christians," Parks stated. "It is seriously unbiblical besides being detrimental to the cause of world missions."

Missionaries are "examined thoroughly by this board," he said, but also must pass other evaluations — from grassroots Southern Baptists who hear them speak in churches and state and national meetings and read what they write.

Missionaries go out not only as evangelists but also in a variety of professions — agriculture, finance, education, business, social ministries, student work, music, communications, education, medicine, literacy training, and a variety of other avenues.

O'Brien is on the staff of FMB.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 11, 1991

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



THE WITNESSING LIFE

by Louis Smith

A layman told me that his life was his way of telling people about Jesus, and there was no need for a verbal witness. We would agree that the Christian walk is indispensable but, the spoken Word was, and has always been, the most effective tool in pointing people to Christ. In my witness to lost people the following outline has proven to be useful.

God loves you

Who doesn't want to know that they are loved? The lost need to know that the One who created this world and each of us is also capable of loving us. "For God so loved" is not only the most famous verse in the Bible, it is the greatest truth. God does love you!

The sin of rejection

Lying, stealing, disobeying parents and murder are sins, but they do not directly cause spiritual lostness. To refuse to accept Jesus as Saviour is the sin that demands God's forgiveness. "He who does not believe is judged already because he does not believe in the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). This sin brings spiritual death if left unrepented "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

God's willingness to save

God's great desire is for the lost to be saved - all lost people "Not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). God's willingness to save should move one toward repentance and faith.

How are we saved?

Believing in, trusting in, and putting faith in Jesus brings salvation "For by grace are you saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). Christ enters the lost person when faith is expressed and Jesus is confessed as Lord.

Assurance

I like to remind the new Christian that times will come when they may not feel saved. God's Word reminds us that if we have truly repented and trusted Jesus as Saviour, we are saved. I use I John 4:13 to assure the new convert that they are saved now and for eternity "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life." HT

This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.

Three Stewardship-Salary Roundup Meetings Scheduled

A series of Stewardship-Salary Roundup meetings will take place in August in three locations.

These meetings will be geared for churches which need information in budgeting, stewardship promotion, salary and tax information, and annuity programs.

The three area meetings will be on Aug. 5 at First Church, Wiggins; Aug. 6 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and Aug. 8 at First Church, Oxford. All three will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 8 p.m.

The guest clinician on taxes will be Frank Schwall,

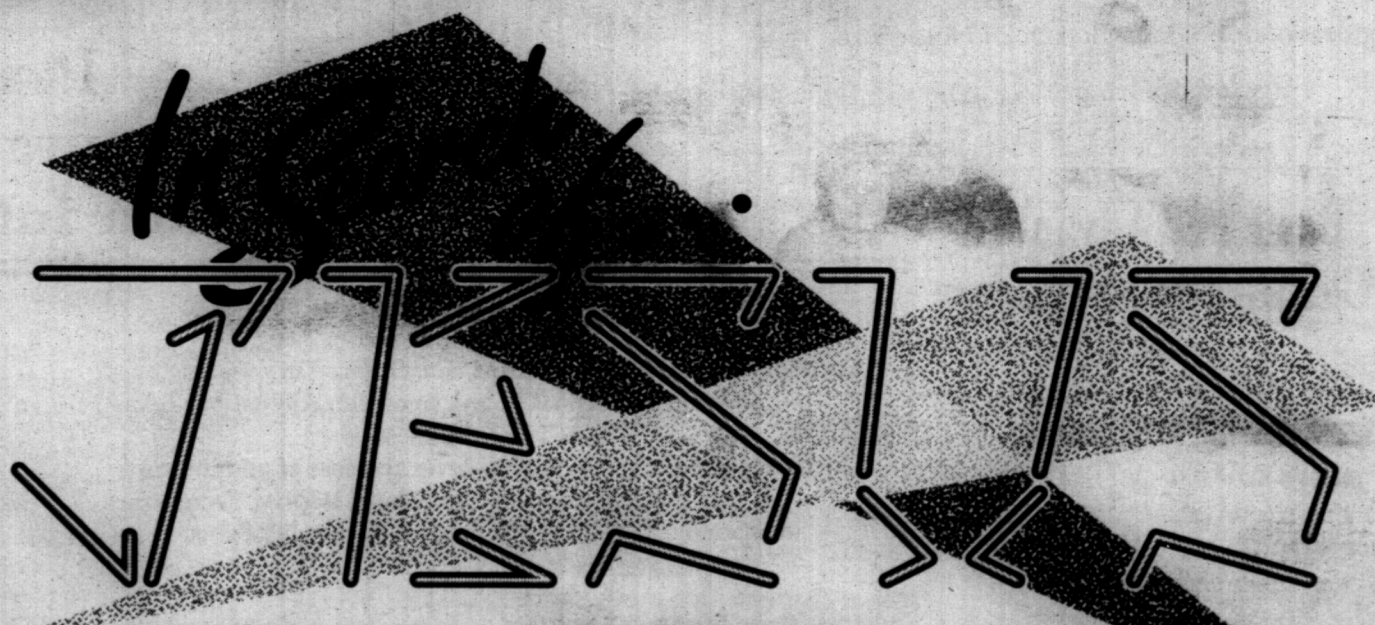
senior vice president of the Annuity Board. David Michel, MBCB stewardship director, will handle budget questions. And Bill Sellers, MBCB annuity representative, will discuss annuity programs.

Sellers notes that a barbecue supper will be served at each meeting. There is a \$10 pre-registration fee per church and each church may bring up to five persons.

Reservations need to be made by July 22 through the Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

These meetings are designed for pastors, chairmen of deacons, church treasurers, personnel committee chairpersons, and budget committee chairs. HT

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There is no fee but please fill in the form on the back page of HouseTops and return to the Church Music Department or call and make your reservation. Seating capacity is limited.

Second Annual Pastors School

Sponsored by Mississippi College
and the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries,
Sunday School and Church Music Departments
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

August 8-9, 1991
Clinton, Mississippi

PURPOSE: To provide an inspirational and worship experience that will renew pastors, church staff and wives for Christian ministry.

WHO MAY ATTEND: Pastors and all staff ministers, directors of missions, chaplains, and their wives. No provision is made for children.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15 per person, \$20 per couple; full payment requested with reservation form. Full refund will be made upon request prior to first session. Commuters will pay only the registration fee.

HOUSING: Accommodations are available in air-conditioned Gunter Hall. Cost, \$8 per person/couple per night for double occupancy rooms.

MEALS: The Thursday evening banquet and refreshment breaks will be complimentary. Other meals may be purchased at cafeteria.

CHECK-IN: Begins 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 8. Ends 9:00 p.m. Friday.

SCHOLARSHIPS: A limited number of scholarships will be available upon request.

CERTIFICATES of Continuing Education units will be awarded.

SPECIAL PROGRAM for wives.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES:

Bill Beal, Consultant, Church Administration Department, SBC
Harold Bryson, Chairman of Pastoral Ministries, NOBTS
Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer, MBCB
John McCall, Head, Department of Religion and Philosophy, MC
Lewis Oswalt, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, MC

Registration form on back page of *HouseTops*. **HT**

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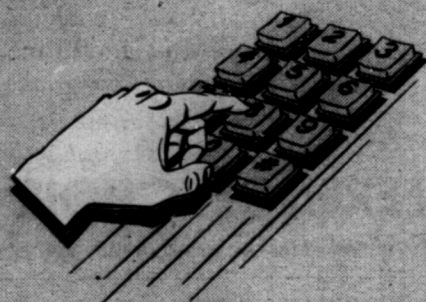
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Jackson, Mississippi

A Cooperative Program Ministry

Basic and Advanced Certification Seminars

for
Church, Associational,
and Agency Secretaries



August 20-23, 1991
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Seminar Information

Basic Seminar

Leader: Melba Tiller, certified church secretary instructor of the Sunday School Board, from San Augustine, Texas

Conference Cost: \$75.00 to cover the cost of all materials (National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries member fee is \$70.00) payable to Sunday School Board

Lodging/Meals Cost: \$66.50 to cover the cost of meals from Tuesday lunch through Friday breakfast and lodging (including linens) payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. If you plan to commute you may pay for only the meals you wish to eat: breakfast, \$3.00; lunch, \$4.00; supper, \$4.00.

Length of time: Sessions will be conducted on Tuesday, August 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.; on Wednesday and Thursday, August 21 and 22 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; on Friday, August 23 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. (exam).

For more information please contact: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, (601) 968-3800 extension 3905

Advanced Seminar

Leader: Dorothy Heard, certified church secretary instructor of the Sunday School Board, from Madison, Florida

Cost: \$25.00 per skillshop to cover the cost of all materials (National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries members fee is \$22.50 per skillshop) payable to Sunday School Board

Lodging/Meals Cost: \$49.50 to cover the cost of meals from Tuesday lunch through Thursday lunch and lodging (including linens). If you plan to commute you may pay for only the meals you wish to eat: breakfast, \$3.00; lunch, \$4.00; supper, \$4.00.

Length of Time: Sessions will be conducted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 20-22, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day

Note: The Baptist Bookstore will have books available for sale.

HOUSE TOPS

Mission Project

Request

We have had an **urgent request** for help from William Carey College. They have a dorm that needs to open this next session due to an increase in enrollment.

They need construction teams to assist with painting, minor electrical work and

general clean-up. This work needs to be completed by the end of July, so we need the teams quickly.

If you have Baptist Men groups or construction groups that can respond please contact the Brotherhood Department or Hardy Denham at William Carey College (Phone 582-6156.) **HT**

Here Is Your First Opportunity . . .

. . . to participate in the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Missions Partnership. There has been an official request for Sept 12-22, 1991. Needed are 12 pastors/evangelists. They will begin their work Sept. 12-14 at the Zimbabwe Baptist Camp training pastors and key laypersons from Zimbabwe churches in evangelistic strategies. These strategies include church planting, revival preparation, invitation and counseling, new member

training, and personal witnessing. Then the ministers will be fanning out across the country into 12 locations preaching weeklong revivals. They will be speaking in schools and rallies also. Bill Causey will be the speaker for a kick off rally in Zimbabwe which will interpret the partnership project. For more information on this September project, contact Garland McKee, director of the Evangelism Department. Total cost is \$2,975. **HT**

Mission Blitz

Two Mission Blitzes took place recently in Lee County and in Jackson County involving a total of 272 youths from more than 20 churches in the state.

The results of the blitzes included more than 83 professions of faith—with some of the decisions coming from the young people who were ministry team members, according to Jim Didlake, Brotherhood Department consultant who coordinated the projects.

done in high crime areas and that "I really believe the real hope for the future is to introduce these children to Jesus Christ."

She said the Jackson Countians are concerned about follow up. "We'll take Big A Clubs into those areas," particularly where there were professions of faith, she said, "But we need to get more involved with tying them into churches."

A representative of Lee County Baptists said that when one of the project sites fell through, permission was granted at the last minute to hold a VBS in a trailer park where Baptist work had not been done. As a result of those efforts a Backyard Bible Club is now planned there.

To participate in next summer's Mission Blitzes, which will take place in Lee and Jackson Counties plus other unspecified locations, contact Jim Didlake at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.



Stephanie Acy of Parkway, Jackson, leads Bible activities at the Tupelo blitz.

Churches from which the volunteers came were Ecu, Wildwood, Sherman, Grace Memorial, Parkway Jackson, Tupelo First, Potts Camp, Abbeville, Doty Chapel,

Longview, Jericho Baldwin, Bethany Prentiss, Prentiss senior adults, Poplar Springs Mendenhall, Briar Hill, Holly Corinth, Anna Heights from Illinois, Silver Springs, and groups from Walthall and Carroll-Montgomery Associations.

In the two counties there were 18 Vacation Bible Schools, plus another at the Vietnamese Mission in Biloxi.

Rebecca Williams of Gautier, who was a director of the Jackson County projects, said that much of the work was



Jennifer Thornton, Poplar Springs, Mendenhall, leads a VBS group at Hayward Brooks Homes in Pascagoula.



Scott White, Patrick Henry, and Beth Rutledge of Briar Hill, Florence, work at Warner Homes in Pascagoula.



WORKSHOP
October 14-18, 1991
Baptist Building

Discipleship Training Provides

1. Commitment to the ministry of the church.
2. More people involved in the total ministry of the church.
3. More people committing life to full-time Christian vocations.
4. Maturing Christians.
5. People accepting Christ as Savior.
6. New members being involved in the ministry of the church.

Sunday School Calendar

AUGUST

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1-3 Sunday School Leadership Conference | Gulfshore |
| 8-10 Sunday School Leadership Conference | Gulfshore |
| 8-10 January Bible Study Clinic | Mississippi College |
| 26 Roll-Out Celebration | Baptist Building |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 6-7 Sunday School Leadership Conference | Gulfshore |
| 13-14 Sunday School Leadership Conference | Gulfshore |
| 29 Day of Prayer for Sunday School BREAKTHROUGH | HT |

Give Them . . .



These words of warmth and love are a welcome sound to new Christians. In addition, these words should mark the beginning of a growing life of discipleship. **Welcome to God's Family** is a small, colorful booklet that helps new Christians get the start they need.

Welcome to God's Family gives new converts a clear, simple explanation of salvation and the reasons they can feel assured about that experience. The booklet also emphasizes the importance of prayer and Bible study in a Christian life.

Placing this booklet in the hands of a new Christian is a very special way to say, "Welcome to God's family." Order item 9218-01 from Materials Services Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference



July 18-20, 1991
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, MS

SCHEDULE



THURSDAY, July 18

10:00 a.m. Registration
12:15 p.m. Faculty Orientation - Room 15
12:45 p.m. Orientation of Conferees - Auditorium

1:30 p.m.	CLASSES	TEACHER	ROOM
	Preschool Choir Leadership	Session 1 of 5	Sanders 9-10
	Younger Children's Choir Leadership	Session 1 of 5	Jackson 11-12
	Older Children's Choir Leadership	Session 1 of 5	D. Odom 13-14
	Piano - Level I	Session 1 of 5	Kirkland 15
	Piano - Level II	Session 1 of 5	Taylor 21
	Organ	Session 1 of 5	Travis Auditorium
	Conducting Session 1 of 2	Price	
	How to Organize and Manage a Church Music Ministry	Session 1 of 2	Keown 25
	Bible Study	McGregor	7-8
2:45 p.m.	CLASSES		
	Indoor/Outdoor Music Games	Repeated 1:30 Fri.	N. Carter 5-6
	Combined Age Choir (1-6) Leadership	Offered once	S. Odom 11-12
	Basic Orff	Repeated 1:30 Fri.	D. Odom 13-14
	Shapes and Sounds	Repeated 2:45 Fri.	Hardy 3
	Using Puppets with Children	Repeated 4:00 Th./2:45 Fri.	Stevens 1-2
	Sugar Sticks	Repeated 1:30 & 2:45 Fri.	V. Smith 4
	Piano - Level I	Session 2 of 5	Kirkland 15
	Piano - Level II	Session 2 of 5	Taylor 21
	Organ	Session 2 of 5	Travis Auditorium
	Conducting Session 2 of 2	Price	27
	Rehearsal Techniques for the Church Orchestra	Offered once	Hanbery 17
	How to Organize and Manage a Church Music Ministry	Session 2 of 2	Keown 25
	Basic Handbells	Offered once	J. Talley 19
4:00 p.m.	CLASSES		
	Using Puppets with Children	Repeated 2:45 Fri.	Stevens 1-2
	Kodaly in Choir	Repeated 4:00 Fri.	N. Carter 5-6
	The Resource Room	Repeated 1:30 & 4:00 Fri.	Stark 7-8
	Directing Children's Singing	Repeated 4:00 Fri.	Prater 13-14
	First Time Directors	Offered once	S. Odom 11-12
	First Time Workers	Offered once	Hardy 3
	I've Always Wanted to Play The Piano	Session 1 of 3	J. Taylor 15
	Beginning Voice Class	Session 1 of 2	R. Carter 21
	Handbell Ringers	Session 1 of 2	J. Talley 19
	Practical Song Leading/Music Reading	Session 1 of 2	Jones 25
6:30 p.m.	Choral Reading Session - Auditorium		
7:30 p.m.	Mass Choir Rehearsal with Milburn Price - Auditorium		
7:45 p.m.	Worship Service		

FRIDAY, JULY 19

8:30 a.m.	CLASSES	TEACHER	ROOM
	Preschool Music Leadership	Session 2 of 5	Sanders 9-10
	Younger Children's Music Leadership	Session 2 of 5	Jackson 11-12
	Older Children's Music Leadership	Session 2 of 5	D. Odom 13-14
	Piano - Level I	Session 3 of 5	Kirkland 15
	Piano - Level II	Session 3 of 5	Taylor 21
	Organ	Session 3 of 5	Travis Auditorium
	Ensemble, Solo and Advanced Handbell Techniques	Session 1 of 2	J. Talley 19
	Planning for Sunday	Offered once	D. Jones 25

9:45 a.m.	CLASSES	TEACHER	ROOM
	Compositional Techniques	Offered once	Price 27
	Bible Study	McGregor	7-8
	Preschool Music Leadership	Session 3 of 5	Sanders 9-10
	Younger Children's Music Leadership	Session 3 of 5	Jackson 11-12
	Older Children's Music Leadership	Session 3 of 5	D. Odom 13-14
	Piano - Level I	Session 4 of 5	Kirkland 15
	Piano - Level II	Session 4 of 5	Taylor 21
	Organ	Session 4 of 5	Travis Auditorium
	Ensemble, Solo and Advanced Handbell Techniques	Session 2 of 2	J. Talley 19
	Churches Associating Musically	Offered once	Jones/Keown 25
	Extended Youth Choir Ministry	Offered once	Clark 23
11:00 a.m.	Worship - Auditorium		
1:30 p.m.	CLASSES		
	Sugar Sticks	Repeated 2:45 Fri.	V. Smith 4
	The Resource Room	Repeated 4:00 Fri.	Stark 7-8
	Basic Orff	last time offered	D. Odom 13-14
	Indoor/Outdoor Music Games	last time offered	N. Carter 5-6
	Accompanying Children's Choirs	Repeated 2:45 Fri.	S. Odom 11-12
	Children's Handbell/Chime		
	Choir Leadership	Session 1 of 2	Hart 19
	Piano Level I	Session 5 of 5	Kirkland 15
	Piano Level II	Session 5 of 5	Taylor 21
	Organ	Session 5 of 5	Travis Auditorium
	Youth Music That Works	Offered once	Clark 23
	Choral Techniques	Session 1 of 2	Price 27
2:45 p.m.	CLASSES		
	Accompanying Children's Choirs	Last time offered	S. Odom 11-12
	Shapes and Sounds	Last time offered	Hardy 3
	Using Puppets with Children	Last time offered	Stevens 1-2
	Sugar Sticks	Last time offered	V. Smith 4
	Music in Missions	Repeated 8:30 Sat.	Carter 5-6
	Open Session on Instrumental Music	Offered once	Hanbery 17
	Choral Techniques	Session 2 of 2	Price 27
	I've Always Wanted to Play the Piano	Session 2 of 3	J. Taylor 15
	Children's Handbell/Chime		
	Choir Leadership	Session 2 of 2	Hart 19
	Practical Song Leading/Music Reading	Session 2 of 2	Jones 25
4:00 p.m.	CLASSES		
	Handbell Ringers	Session 2 of 2	J. Talley 19
	Beginning Voice Class	Session 2 of 2	R. Carter 21
	Kodaly in Choir	Last time offered	N. Carter 5-6
	The Resource Room	Last time offered	Stark 7-8
	Directing Children's Singing	Last time offered	Prater 13-14
	I've Always Wanted to Play the Piano	Session 3 of 3	J. Taylor 15
	Motivated Singers Make Satisfied Singers	Offered once	Keown 23
	Choral Reading Session - Auditorium		
	Concert		
	Mass Choir Rehearsal with Milburn Price - Auditorium		
	Talent Time		

SATURDAY, JULY 20

8:30 a.m.	CLASSES	TEACHER	ROOM
	Preschool Music Leadership	Session 4 of 5	Sanders 9-10
	Younger Children's Music Leadership	Session 4 of 5	Jackson 11-12
	Older Children's Music Leadership	Session 4 of 5	D. Odom 13-14
	Piano/Organ Combined Class	Offered once	Pray Auditorium
	Selecting Music for Smaller Church Choirs	Session 1 of 2	Keown 25
	Bible Study	last time offered	McGregor 7-8
	Music in Missions		Carter 5-6
9:45 a.m.	CLASSES		
	Preschool Music Leadership	Session 5 of 5	Sanders 9-10
	Younger Children's Music Leadership	Session 5 of 5	Jackson 11-12
	Older Children's Music Leadership	Session 5 of 5	D. Odom 13-14
	Physiological Approach to Keyboard Practice	Offered once	Culpepper 17
	Selecting Music for Smaller Church Choirs	Session 2 of 2	Keown 25
	Master Voice Class	Offered once	R. Carter 21
11:00 a.m.	Worship		
1:00 p.m.	Good-bye!		

Reservation Form

for In Search Of ... JESUS

Name _____
Church _____
Telephone _____
Estimate Number Attending _____

Mail To: Church Music Department
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone # 968-3800

Second Annual Pastors School Registration August 8-9, 1991

Please send me a schedule and further information about The Pastors School.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Home Ph.: _____ Work Ph.: _____

QUESTIONS? Call 925-3831

MAIL TO: Second Annual Pastors School
P.O. Box 4185
Clinton, MS 39058

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"I didn't know church could be so much fun—until I discovered my gifts." That was one person's response after discovering that God has gifted all his people. Discovering Your Spiritual gifts is an eight-session Equipping Center module designed to affirm the presence of spiritual gifts in our lives and the lives of other believers.

When we live out of our gifts, we begin to have the time of our lives. This module provides an exciting way of learning through a member booklet and a Body of Christ chart. Complete with leader guides and learning aids.

Order *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts* from materials Services Department 127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, TN 37234 or purchase at Baptist Book Stores.

Luther sets example

By Larry Otis

Recently I read in an 1848 edition of the HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION about Martin Luther, his dedication, and his conviction of man's ability to read God's Word and to have its meaning understood. In Luther's time, the Bible was not readily available to the public and many of its religious leaders for their use. Luther read, studied, prayed, and contemplated God's Word to man.



Otis

Upon reaching his convictions of what God was saying to all men, Luther found himself at odds with his own Catholic religion and its princely leaders. His conviction and determination carried him to express his beliefs in writing, to defend them against the threat of the pope. He had few individuals that stood by his side against the Vatican system and leadership.

It is gratifying to us as Christians to look back at the strength of conviction of Martin Luther in his endeavor to bring the truth of the word of God to the average man.

Luther's beliefs led him to question the papal authority.

We as Christians face a different type of challenge than that of Luther. Our lives are not challenged, our livelihood is not at risk, nor our reputation in danger. We are called upon to minister in God's name to all people, to share the good news of God's great love for all people. We must be about his work, and not man's work. The church is to be a place where we worship God, sing praises, and bow down before him and humble ourselves.

Luther showed to us in this modern time of various approaches to our Christian living that a central theme is as applicable today as in Luther's 16th century. We must be faithful, hold fast to God's Word, study his Word, and be convicted enough of our understanding of his Word that we can stand firm to our Christian beliefs and heritage under God's leadership.

Ephesians 4:1-6 gives us our marching orders for our lives under God: to walk worthy of our calling, to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father, who is over all and through all and in all.

As the children of God, called to do his work, we must have the faith, determination, and commitment of work and study of a Martin Luther, so that we may bring ourselves before God as acceptable and proven vessels.

Larry Otis is a Tupelo layman.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"Trust the Lord and tell the people"

Mississippi might be near the bottom of the heap in the money-making category, but it's right up at the top in producing Baptist leaders. Remember T. L. Holcomb and James L. Sullivan and Grady Cothen, all presidents of the Baptist Sunday School Board? Remember Gaines Dobbins of Southern Seminary fame? Remember J. B. Lawrence, head of the Home Mission Board for 25 years? Mississippians, all.

John Benjamin Lawrence was born in Florence, Mississippi, 120 years ago yesterday — July 10, 1871. His 25 years at the helm of home missions — 1929-1954 — just happened to be the first 25 years of my life. When I was a GA and had to name the heads of Southern Baptist boards, J. B. Lawrence was always on the list.

Into his 97 years he packed a lot of living. Even after he retired at age 82, he added three more books to the 20 he had already written.

He graduated from Mississippi College in 1899. Then during his first pastorate, at Greenwood, he earned a master's degree. Other pastorates took him to Tennessee, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. The one at First Baptist Church, New Orleans, just preceded World War I.

Three state Baptist conventions claimed him as executive secretary — Louisiana (1908-09); Mississippi (1913-21); and Missouri (1926-29). The Southern Baptist Convention elected him as vice president, 1916-17.

His good business sense turned into a life preserver for Mississippi Baptists and also for Oklahoma Baptist University (he was its president); he steadied their tottering economic structures. When the SBC launched its 75 Million Campaign, naturally he led Mississippi to be the first state convention to underwrite the goal!

His favorite name must have been Helen, for he married Helen Alford Nov. 15, 1900, and after her death, he married Helen Huston in 1949. He and the first Helen had six children.

In 1929, he took on the job as Home Mission Board's 11th president. He bit off a mouthful, yes. But not more than he could chew. The board's previous treasurer had embezzled almost a million for his own use. That debt, plus more debts, added up to \$2,500,000 — not all that much in today's figures, but a staggering amount then.

The agency was near collapse. Yet onset of Depression with a capital D did not stop Lawrence. He coined a phrase, "Trust the Lord and tell the people." He began publication of Home Missions magazine and became its editor. He spoke on radio in the "Good News Hour" and in churches far and wide. His aim: to lead Southern Baptists to repay the debt and rebuild the board's integrity. His philosophy worked. On May 22, 1943, the Home Mission Board became free of debt for the first time in a quarter of a century.

Then Lawrence led in a period of enlargement and expansion. The list is too long for my space, but imagine

the far-reaching tentacles of such as these: the beginning of Sellers Home and Adoption Center, promotion of schools of missions, chaplaincy ministry, rural church work, student summer missions, Church Extension Loan Fund, juvenile rehabilitation, work with migrants, Tentmakers, organization of a Department of Cooperative Missions, reestablishment of the Department of Evangelism . . .

Last year the Home Mission Board initiated a J. B. Lawrence Award to express appreciation for help in telling the story of missions.

And who received the first J. B. Lawrence Award? Mississippi! It went to Don McGregor, retiring editor, now editor emeritus, of the Baptist Record. Jim Newton, director of public relations for the Home Mission Board, presented a plaque last fall to him, expressing appreciation for his role in helping tell the story of missions to Southern Baptists.

Newton added that throughout McGregor's 34-year career in Baptist journalism, he had sought to live out on a daily basis Lawrence's motto, "Trust the Lord and tell the people." It's a good motto.



Newton presents award to McGregor.

The legend of Lawrence and the cat

Legend records that when J. B. Lawrence was a young boy, his belief in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny gone, he just wasn't too sure of anything. He had always heard a cat had nine lives and decided to test the theory. He deceased the old family cat, buried her in the orchard, and sat back to await the resurrection.

After several days, he arrived at the conclusion that a cat only has one life. He felt secure in his beliefs, until walking down the road one day he said, "Now suppose somebody had gotten hold of that cat eight times before I did." — GH

Letters to the editor

Join hands again

Editor:

I fear that the "rope of sand with strength of steel" that has been used to describe the cooperative efforts of Southern Baptists is about to become adrift in this ever rising sea of controversy. The pathway toward unity becomes more rocky and obscured each day. We have had our Peace Committee and still no peace. Baptists are historically good at this — assigning to committee action what sometimes is an individual responsibility.

This present controversy cannot be solved in committee chambers or on the convention hall floor. We have had that and we still have discord. The time is long past for the family feud to end. This matter has been before the public long enough. It is time we all went private with this to our own personal private prayer closet. I wonder what would happen if we each laid aside our personal agenda, forgot for a moment what the positions of the "bigsticks" on matters happens to be, forgot for a time the terms fundamentalist and moderate or conservative and liberal, and resorted to seeking the mind of God on this present situation. What would happen if we spent more time praying about this than plotting and counter-plotting against

each other? What would happen if no one even mentioned whom they were going to run or vote for next summer and just cast their vote and kept silent? This might be the beginning of the end of this atrocious mess.

Let us all join hands again and ask the Spirit of Christ to guide us out of this stormy sea to the plain of brotherly love. The Southern Baptist family watches; the world watches; our Lord watches. Every one loses unless we elevate this to a higher plain and a higher power.

Danny C. Burnham
Fort Worth, Texas

Church or state?

Editor:

I love America! I am thankful for the blessings we enjoy, and I know there is no greater country in the world. I am proud of America! For the most part, we usually stand up for the right things. Desert Storm brought a great sense of patriotism to our hearts and made it quite fashionable to be a flag waver. I waved my flag before it was fashionable and will continue to do so when it is no longer the "in trend." There is, however, a disturbing trend taking place among us that should shout a caution to those with an awareness of historical Baptist heritage.

There is a modern mixture of

religion and patriotism that is sweeping our nation in, of all places, the longtime champion of the ideals of separation of church and state, the Baptist church. Giant American flags and patriotic messages stir my heart and bring a lump to my throat. I get chills when I think of the sacrifices made by the men and women who have given their lives for this country. "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful" bring tears to my eyes as the jets fly over.

The love of your country feels wonderful and there are strong emotions involved in my patriotism, but patriotism is not Christian worship. We Baptists, of all people, should know the difference. Jesus made it clear that there is a difference between rendering unto Caesar and rendering unto God. He also said that no man can serve two masters. When we honor our country and call it worship, we are committing idolatry.

America needs God, but does God need America? Is the Kingdom of God dependant on American politics? To be sure, patriotism and religion have a great deal in common and are not at all incompatible, but Christianity and patriotism are not the same and should never be substituted for each other. Worship services in our churches whose purpose is to honor

our country rather than honoring the God of our country are direct violations of the principles for which many Baptists have given their lives in this great country. Do we believe in God or do we believe in America? Is Jesus Lord or is America lord? Both cannot be Lord.

Romans 13:1 tells us to be subject to the higher powers. That is an easy command to keep in this great nation. It seems that in this land of the free and home of the brave, we must be cautious that we not become guilty of deifying and worshipping the state as the Romans did before their fall. Rendering unto Caesar is our Christian duty, but worshipping Caesar is not only un-baptistic; it is un-Christian idolatry. Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; let's not render unto Caesar the things that are God's. It seems that many of us lately have forgotten the difference.

Ron Kirkland
pastor, First Church, Amory

Embarassing day for Southern Baptists

Editor:

It's now clear. When the top story in the Baptist Press report of the SBC annual meeting (June, Foreign Mission Board "Intercom"), is Bush's

view on abortion and schooling, it's now clear the SBC has become a forum for crusading issues. When the succeeding story says, "Conservative forces demonstrated their control," it's also clear the SBC no longer relates to autonomous people, but is certainly a powerful political machine.

Also, the Baptist Joint Committee has been wiped off the books; and the new second vice president "meets conservatives' standards in theology," so it's now clear that the tent is not wider, even though Morris Chapman promised it would be.

With a 10 percent increase in the executive committee's budget but 2.46 for agencies, it's now clear that ministries have been tossed aside in favor of administration. With the report of Chapman's "several jabs at moderates," it's now clear that sensationalism, not journalism, is the new marching order for Baptist Press. It is now clear that the heart of the once greatest missionary enterprise in the world, the Southern Baptist Convention, is seriously hurting. It's now clear — this is an embarrassing day to be a "Southern Baptist" missionary.

Gary Mayfield, missionary
Tokyo, Japan

Staff changes

Michael Weeks has accepted the call of Oakland Church, Brandon, as pastor. He comes to this position from Leake County, where he served as director of missions. He has served churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. He holds the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary, and the B.A. degree from Mississippi College. He has traveled the Southeast conducting conferences for the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board. He is also a certified teacher for the Seminary Extension Department. He and his wife Brenda have two children.



Weeks

Parkway Church, Natchez, has called John Cross to serve as summer minister of youth. Cross is from Moss Point, and a student at Mississippi College. He is a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

North Batesville Church, Panola Association, has called Ben Jones as minister of youth, effective June 9. A native of Tupelo, Jones is presently a sophomore at Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Eastside Church, Belzoni, has called Joy Vaughn of Durant, as its summer minister of youth and activities. Vaughn is a junior at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Robert Burns is pastor.

Steve Hurt has accepted the call as minister of education for Calvary Church, Tupelo, effective June 9. Hurt previously served First Church, Kingston, Tenn., Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, and Monticello Church. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife Debbie have three sons.



Hurt

Stephen White, minister of music and youth at Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, has resigned to accept the position of minister of education at Balmoral Church in Memphis, Tenn. A reception was held in his honor on June 30.

Locust Street Church, Pike Association, has called Ted Dukes of Brandon, as pastor. Dukes is a graduate of Mississippi College and is presently attending New Orleans Seminary. Previous places of service include Robinhood Church, Brandon, and Park Place Church, Pearl. Dukes's first Sunday of service at Locust Street was May 12.

Revival dates

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid (Tallahatchie): July 14-18; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Ray Wilton Wall, First Church, Simsboro, La., evangelist; David A. Crowe, pastor.

New Good Hope (Scott): July 14-17; Tony Henry, Morton, evangelist; Danny Harrison of Forest, New Good Hope Church, music leader; Paul Smith, pastor; Sun. services at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with dinner in fellowship hall; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.

Calvary, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): July 14-19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; 7 p.m. nightly; Kenneth Moore, Enon Church, Jayess, evangelist; Thomas Moak, Bogue Chitto, retired from Pleasant Hill, music; Emon White, pastor.

Crystal Springs, Tylertown (Walthall): July 14-18; Sun., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; nightly, 7 p.m.; John Wilton, Mississippi Gulf Coast, evangelist; Drew Leblanc, minister of music, Crystal Springs, music; Les Hughes, pastor.

Liberty Church, Jefferson community (Carroll-Montgomery): July 14-19; John Marshall, Fort Smith, Ark., evangelist; Claver Blair, Liberty Church, music leader; services at 10:45 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Keith Powell, pastor.

Learned Church (Hinds-Madison): July 18-21; evenings at 7 p.m.; Sun. at 11 a.m.; Jack Albritton, McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, preaching; Sam Mason, pastor.

Rock Hill, Covington Association: July 21-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Fred Fowler, evangelist; Buddy McElroy, music; Zack Winningham, pastor.

Pearl Hill Church, Carthage (Leake): July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Carlton Jones, retired from Wiggins Church, Carthage, evangelist; Louie Perry, Pearl Hill Church, Carthage, music; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor.

Enon, Batesville (Panola): July 14-19; Sun., 10:30 a.m., 8 p.m. nightly; Truman Scarborough, First Church, Coffeeville, evangelist; Maurice Ellis, Enon, music; G. E. Jolley, pastor.

Pelahatchie Church (Rankin): July 14-19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily; Ken Anderson, Parkway Church, Jackson, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, full-time music evangelist, music; David Briscoe, pastor.

Arlington, Lincoln Association: July 14-18; Ferrell Cork, Van Winkle Church, Jackson, evangelist; Lonnie Case, music; John Alexander, interim pastor.

Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven: July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m. nightly; Roy McHenry, First Church, Okolona, evangelist; Jewell Greer, Russell Church, Meridian, music; James E. Sanders, pastor.

Antioch Church, Prentiss: July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Robert Keyes Jr., Bethany Church, Prentiss, evangelist; Russell Polson Jr., pastor.

Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee: July 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., fellowship dinner, noon; services, 1:30 p.m.; services, 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; Tom Cox, Mountainburg, Ark., evangelist; his wife, Kay Cox, special music; Bill Presher, pastor.

Churches adopt expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the June 6 issue of the Baptist Record: Carroll-Montgomery: Coila; Humphreys: FBC Isola; Jasper: FBC Rose Hill; Lamar: Oloh; and Lowndes: Border Springs.

ROMANIA

From page 3

delightful Christian people you can ever want to be with," he said. The 1,000 or so churches in the union have moved ahead with an aggressive campaign of outreach and church-starting since attaining freedom, he said.

Southern Baptist workers were forced to withdraw from Romania before

World War II, but the Foreign Mission Board has maintained steady contact with Romanian Baptists in recent decades and provided help with teaching projects, church-building programs, medical projects, and hunger relief.

The Thomases have five children. Three will be with them in Romania; two older children will be attending college in the United States.

Creswell writes for FMB.

Homecomings

Centerville Church (Carroll): Aug. 4; Gary Tanner, pastor, Valley Hill Church, Greenwood, guest speaker; lunch served and afternoon singing; no night services; Eddie Carpenter, pastor.

Second Church, Greenville (Washington): 53rd anniversary; July 28; 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Robert Dottley, pastor.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale (George): July 14; 125th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; services, 7 p.m.; Charles Bufkin Jr., minister of music and youth; Roy T. Myers, pastor.

Satartia Church, Benton: July 21; Sunday School at 10 a.m. and morning worship at 11; James Algood, guest minister; dinner in fellowship hall; Sojourners to sing in afternoon.

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln): 139th homecoming; July 14; Calvin Phelps of First Church, Winnfield, La., to speak at the 11 a.m. service; covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall; afternoon singing at 1 (no night service); guest singing group, Quiet Understanding, Vidalia, La.; afternoon service to include memorial time and special offering for cemetery fund; Joe M. Wallace, minister of music; Robert H. Perry, pastor.

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Just for the Record



First Church, Lambert, North Delta Association, will have a deacons/wives conference, July 26-27. Leading the conference will be Robert Sheffield, national deacon ministry consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

A Ministers' Golf Tournament will take place at the Pontotoc Country Club, Pontotoc, on July 15, beginning at 9 a.m. The \$15 fee, according to Bobby Caples of Furrs Church, includes green fee and lunch. For more information, call 489-1346.

Woodhaven Church, Ocean Springs, Jackson County, broke ground on homecoming day, June 2, for an addition to its building. The 30' x 80' addition will house more classrooms, a fellowship hall, restrooms, and storage facilities. Participants in the ground breaking ceremony were Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson County Association; Tracy Martin, pastor; Burl Cooley, minister of music; and Harold Saul, chairman of deacons.

The First Southern Baptist Church of Aschaffenburg, a congregation of 45 people located in Aschaffenburg, Germany, (which is 35 miles east, southeast of Frankfurt, Germany) is in need of a pastor. The congregation consists of people connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English speaking), and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact: CPT Paul T. Ahern, RCO Frankfurt, Box 73, APO NY 09710-5345.

Off the Record

Mother: "Junior why don't you take your little sister with you when you go fishing today?"

"No," said Junior firmly, "the last time she tagged along I didn't catch a fish."

"I'm sure she'll be quiet this time," said Mother.

"It wasn't the noise," Junior explained, "she ate the bait."

Senior adult corner

A senior adult Spiritual Enrichment Crusade is planning for July 14-16, 6:30 p.m. nightly at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg. Team leaders will be Bob Norman, preaching; Russell Newport, vocalist and song leader; Irene Martin and Judy McMullin, instrumentalists. Each service will also feature a guest senior adult choir: Sunday, FBC Brandon; Monday, Parkway, Jackson; Tuesday, FBC Haynesville, La.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 9 at Country Woods Church, Jackson, as the church prepares to build its first permanent structure. The new building will contain both a sanctuary and educational space, covering a 6,000 square foot space. Much of the building will be done by volunteer labor from various churches. It will be replacing two "mobile chapels," one provided by Hinds-Madison Association and the other by Mississippi Baptists. Pictured from foreground to background are: James Webster, Hinds-Madison Association; Gary Bunch, pastor; Rick Baker, Glenn Pilgrim, Jim Johnson, Gene Dunaway, and Charles Renfrow, building committee members. Gene Dunaway is Building Committee chairman. Other building committee members not pictured are Hollis Entekin and Rusty Lea.



Tommy Jones, pastor of Hebron Church, Meridian, is shown with members of the building committee and deacons at a note burning held for the church May 26. The congregation retired a building debt of \$162,000.



Highland Church, Laurel, first through third graders were given a Mother-Daughter tea and awarded certificates for completing their Mission Adventures books for the year. Pictured are: bottom row, left to right, Liza Wall, Erin Dry, Kim Bigler, Amy King, Kristen Jernigan; top row, left to right, Deidre Craig, Christy Pruitt, Brittany Hamilton, Stacy Dill, Christa Bigler, and Melanie Wood. Not pictured are Angela Pridgen, Hope Windham, Casey Napier, and Tiffany Wood. GA leaders are Donna Walters, Sandra King, Nancy Jernigan. GA director is Susie Rustin.



A GA Acteen Recognition Service was held at First Church, Tupelo, on May 19. The theme was "Love In Any Language."

Pictured, front row, left to right, are James Meeks, Hannah Dinkelacker, Summer Young, Katherine Wiley, Sara Harris, Mary Elizabeth Smothers, and Vaughn Murphy; second row, Kelly McCaulla (queen), Lisa Johnston (queen), Summer Smith (queen), Ashley Wallace (queen regent), Kristen Langford (service aid), Molly Robinson (queen regent), and Alison Dicky (queen); third row, Susan Arnold (leader), Sharon Smith (leader), and Katy Wallace (director).



First Church, Starkville, recently held its recognition service for its GAs on May 12. Those receiving badges were: front row, Rebecca Kerr, Emily Cole, Katie Dorris, Danielle Kraker, Megan Springer — level one, and Mary Straton Karatassos — level four. Second row, Amanda Kraker, Janet Browning, Heather Tomlinson, Hannah Glisson — level two, Diana Dunn — level three, Kirsten Tomlinson — level six and Missions Adventure Charm. Third row, Lisette Cabrera — level two, Laura Tomlinson — level four, Lorin Langston, Nicole Cabrera, Carrie Starks — level five. GA leaders are Gayle Kraker, Jennifer Goodgine, Sara Barker, Kay Wamble, Ashley Taylor, Nan Donohoe, and Donna Henderson. Director is Laura Cole.

Thursday, July 11, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



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Names in the news

Laura Rawls of Big Level Church, Wiggins, was selected as a Sojourner with the Home Mission Board. She will work for 10 weeks with the Smokey Mountain Resort Ministries, with puppets, Backyard Bible Schools, and playing piano at camp ground services. Rawls is the daughter of Sherry and Lynn Rawls.

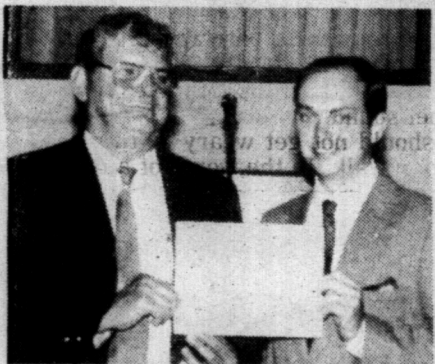
Hugh Acton of Wynndale Church, Terry, has made a commitment to the ministry through missions. Hugh is a 10th grade student at Byram Attendance Center. His father, Ken Acton, is the principal at Brinkley Junior High and his mother is a teacher in the elementary school system in Jackson.



Acton



Bobby Irvin was licensed to preach April 28 at Holcomb Church, Grenada Association. He is shown receiving the certificate from Holcomb pastor Dale Gravatt, right. Irvin presently serves Holcomb Church as song leader, RA leader, and Discipleship Training teacher. He is available for interim and supply.



Ben Kennedy was ordained by Friendship East Church, Tallahatchie Association, May 26. The church has called Kennedy as youth minister. Kennedy is shown, right, with Friendship East pastor, J. G. Thomas presenting the certificate of ordination.



Tim Riley (right) of Starkville, a senior majoring in music composition at Mississippi College, has won two awards in the young Composer's National Competition sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. Riley's vocal solo with piano accompaniment, "Other Places," won the Devora Nadworthy second place award and the special recognition Hatz award. Riley is a composition student of James Sclater (left), professor of music at Mississippi College. (MC photo)



Wayne Griffith, left, pastor of Laurel Hill Church, Neshoba County, presents Dudley Winstead a certificate. Winstead surrendered to the ministry on Sunday, March 4. He is pastor of New County Line Church, Neshoba County. Winstead is the son of Hardy and Shirley Winstead. He is married to Diana (James) Winstead and has a daughter, Megan, and a son, Clay.

Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach, and one of three directors of the Home Mission Board from Mississippi, recently participated in the Home Mission Board Awareness Tour of the Northwest Baptist Convention. (His picture and a story about his work there were on the front page of the Record recently.) He is available to mission organizations and churches to share the vision of home missions in Oregon and Washington. He may be contacted at 864-2703.

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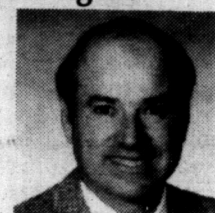
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God grants wisdom to Solomon, at his request

By Randy W. Turner
1 Kings 3:1-4:34

True wisdom is not gotten, but is given; Not dug out of the earth, but dropped from heaven: Heavenly, not earthly, is the brightness of it. — Lytton

I wonder what I might have said had God appeared to me in the dream and made the magnificent, divine offer: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you" (NIV). Would I have requested power, prominence, prestige, position? Would I have clamored for a wealth of things? You could expect such a response from the youthful Solomon. Youth is prone to be overconfident and to think that it can do better than its fathers who were likely just as confident in their time of youth.

Solomon, however, had a deep sense of insufficiency for his task. When Solomon was faced with the exceptional opportunity to ask anything that he would of God, he responded with maturity beyond his years.

He had gone to Gibeon, a journey of seven



Turner

BIBLE BOOK

miles, and had a long and solemn time of great sacrificing. His whole mind and heart were filled with the thoughts of the holiness of God and the horribleness of sin. As Solomon lay down that night to sleep with a deep sense of his own weakness and unworthiness, God appeared to him in a dream with such an offer of grace as was sufficient for all his needs.

It was not enough that he should have the opportunity of choosing. He must make up his mind and speak out his request.

I. The king prayed.

He could have asked for anything; yet his words were these: "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong" (1 Kings 3:9).

Solomon requested the wisdom of God. He asked for the practical wisdom needed for ruling in these old days when the king was judge as well as ruler and captain. He pleaded with God that he had made him king and implied that therefore God was bound to fit him for his office. That is the boldness permitted to faith, to remind God of his own acts which pledge him

to give what he has put us into circumstances to need.

Solomon received the wisdom of God. "I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart so that there will never have been anyone like you nor will there ever be" (1 Kings 3:12).

I am reminded of James 1:5: "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God." Solomon, however, got more than he had asked for. "Moreover I will give you what you have not asked for, both riches and honor, so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. If you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life" (1 Kings 3:13-14 NIV).

Solomon relied on the wisdom of God. Solomon demonstrated his great wisdom in his solving of the dilemma of the two women (1 Kings 3:25-27). "It is characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things" — Thoreau.

Every day brings decisions that require the wisdom of God.

The central Bible truth of this lesson is this: God's granting wisdom to Solomon demonstrates that when people ask God's guidance from right motives, he responds abundantly.

That truth holds for you as it did for Solomon.

II. The kingdom prospered.

God congratulated the young king for his value judgments and for the unselfishness of his prayer. He might have made selfish or even vengeful requests, but he thought first of his responsibilities to God's people. This section of scripture clearly relates the prosperity of the people under Solomon's leadership.

Were one to evaluate the reign of Solomon purely from a human standpoint, his wealth might be attributed to his commercial genius. It is obvious to me, however, that his wisdom was a special gift of God rewarding his humble request and obedience. "God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt" (1 Kings 4:29-30).

Solomon realized his youthful aspirations. The only way to be sure of getting what we wish is to wish what God desires to give, even himself, and to ask it of him.

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

The people of God gained their strength from God

By Kiely D. Young
Nehemiah 4

A downhearted lady was asked one day by a friend, "Why the long face?" The lady responded, "The Bible says, 'In this world you shall have tribulation,' so I'm tribulating!"



Young

We often look at our circumstances and have similar responses. We think our situation is impossible and can see no possible solution. We hear voices to confirm our thoughts.

Nehemiah had surveyed the situation. He was aware of his opposition. He had rallied and organized the committed people of God for the task at hand. Now it was time to get on with the job of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK (v. 6). All of chapter 3 is an exciting testimony of what it takes in difficult circumstances to get the job done. Throughout the chapter we read "and next to him." The people of God gained their strength from God and joined together to rebuild the wall. Each person fulfilled his responsibility.

This is the pattern for every church and every

UNIFORM

Christian home. We all work together to complete the task God has given. We know he will never put more on us than we can bear. He also tells us he will give us everything we need to complete the job assigned. If every Christian would live by this pattern, the work of fulfilling the Great Commission could be completed in this generation.

Nehemiah knew that his challenge was not only to rebuild the wall but also to deal with the opposition. He knew he had very formidable opposition from local officials. Sanballat, Tobiah, and company were rather upset with the thought of losing their control over the Jews. Therefore, "they conspired together against Jerusalem."

We can always expect opposition to the work of God. It may be verbal, or physical, or it may even cost the lives of those involved. Ralph Bethea, missionary to Kenya, knows well the cost. God has powerfully used the Betheas to bring revival to Kenya. Thousands have come to Christ as a result of their ministry. But the attack of evil took the life of his wife, Lynda. So how can Christians respond to evil opposition?

THEY HAD A HEART TO PRAY. Verse 9: "But we prayed to God because of them and set up a guard against them day and night."

They prayed to overcome the obstacles that faced them. They faced the obstacle of doubt verbalized by their enemy. Verse 3: "Even what are they building — if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down." The Jews began to wonder if they really could rebuild the wall. Verse 10: "The strength of the burden bearers is failing, yet there is much reb- bish and we ourselves are unable to rebuild the wall."

They also had to overcome the obstacle of deception. Verse 11: "They will know or see until we come among them, kill them, and put a stop to the work." With such threats, many wanted to retreat and declare the price too high to pay. But Nehemiah gave them the encouragement they needed. Verse 14: "When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke . . . 'Do not be afraid of them, remember the Lord who is great and awesome.'"

Nehemiah led the people to pray and get a word of encouragement from God then he led them to put feet, hands, and work with their prayers. Verse 13: "I stationed men in the lowest parts of the space between the wall, the exposed places, and I stationed the people in families with swords, spears, and bows." Nehemiah

knew they must stand against the enemy as well as rebuild the wall.

Such is the case for every Christian. We must stand against the enemy as we determine to live for Christ. We have the right resources — prayer and the power of God. But it only works for us if we daily appropriate it.

Nehemiah knew further his people would need their togetherness throughout the rebuilding of the wall. He knew they really needed a vision of victory. Verses 19-20: "And I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, 'The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the will far from one another. At whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.' They had a rallying point. They knew what to do when the trumpet sounded. But they were to carry on their work until it sounded. Again, such is the case with every Christian, and every church. We are to carry on the work of service until we hear the rally call or the trumpet sound.

We should not get weary at the job of the Christian walk. In the words of a dear friend in ministry, "All we have to do is be faithful. God will take care of the rest." Nehemiah knew God give strength, power, and protection to finish the task. So should we!

Young is pastor, First Church, Greenville.

Challenges bring opportunities to say, "Yes, I can"

By Don Dobson
1 Kings 18:17-21, 36-39

What's in a name? Obviously a person's name is a mark of identity. It is also much more. A name not only identifies, but it also signifies.



Dobson

Elijah's name means "Yahweh is my God." His name did not only identify him to his family, friends, and enemies; it also signified what kind of person he was. What about your name? It too identifies and signifies.

The prophet, Elijah was faced with a choice during a historic meeting with Ahab. Would he give in to his whimpering despot or would he stand firmly upon the definition of his name? Elijah was indeed facing a benchmark mark of his ministry. We too face benchmark marks in our lives.

I. We are often challenged (vv. 17-19).

Life is full of challenges. The challenge of Elijah's day was whether or not to serve God. It certainly parallels our day. Every day of our lives, we decide if we will follow God or not. For some, the decision is couched in the choice to accept Christ as Savior, or to deny him. For

LIFE AND WORK

others it is based on following his example at the work place, school, or home. We are not all challenged alike, but we are all challenged.

II. When faced with a challenge, we should seek God's face (vv. 36-37).

The prophet Elijah fully understood the importance of his challenge. He knew that all the eyes of Israel, as well as the eyes of the corrupt government of Ahab, would be watching. Elijah prayed. He prayed that people would recognize that God alone was God. He prayed that Israel would once again return to Yahweh.

You and I must also pray when faced with difficult challenges. We are constantly confronted with a world that doubts the power and grace of God. As we go, we must go prayerfully.

III. The challenge answered (vv. 38-39).

With each new challenge comes an opportunity to say, "Yes, I can," or "No, I will not." On the top of Mt. Carmel, God answered with a resounding, "Yes, I can." Every day our Lord answers the challenges of mankind. "Yes, I can save you," "Yes, I can heal you," "Yes, I do hate sin," "Yes, I do love you," and perhaps most important of all, "Yes, I will forgive you." God

answered that day. His people also answered. They bowed and reaffirmed their faith in God.

May we reaffirm our faith in God, too.

Dobson is pastor of Collins Church, Collins.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City: July 15-19; 8-11:30 a.m.; preschool through sixth grade; Janice Bath, director; Stephen Bath, director of music and youth; Bryan Abel, pastor. For more information, call 746-1528.

Mt. Creek Church, Florence: July 15-19; 6-8:30 p.m.; carnival, Sun., 4-6 p.m.; Sandra Buffington, VBS principal; 991 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

Grandview Church, Rankin Association, held its Vacation Bible School, June 17-21. High attendance was 116. The children collected over 18,000 pennies for the Community Stew Pot.

First Church, Byhalia, Marshall Association, held Vacation Bible School June 10-14 for ages 2-11. They enrolled 127 and had an average of 109 per day. The offering was \$135.40 for the Cooperative Program. A total of 39 decisions were made during the evangelistic emphasis. As a result of VBS, several children have already made public professions of faith at First Church and neighboring churches.

Corinth Church, Heidelberg: June 7-21; average daily attendance, 67; 13 decisions for Christ; James Taylor, pastor, was director.

New Hope Church, Gulfport: July 15-19; 9-Noon; a parade will be July 12, 10 a.m.

capsules

NEW TESTAMENT FOR REMOTE INDIAN TRIBE: MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP) — Mildred Muro is a missionary to the Mazahua Indians, a tribe living in a remote region of northeast Mexico. For more than 50 years she has lived in Mexico, and after 32 years of work, Muro was able to complete a translation of the New Testament into the Mazahua dialect, spoken by about 450,000 people. Her translation of the Scriptures was one of several translation projects for the Mazahua people, translations which introduced the Indian tribe to the first written form of their language. An independent Baptist missionary trained by Wycliffe Bible Translators and Moody Bible Institute, Muro privately funded all her translation efforts, which included a booklet of hymns and choruses, three primary readers, and a Spanish-Mazahua Dictionary. Muro, originally from Niagara Falls, Canada, began the task of reducing the Mazahua dialect to writing almost four decades ago. Although Spanish is now taught in schools in the region and some of the children are now becoming fluent in that language, Mazahua is the language of the older generation who cannot speak or read Spanish.

LEATHER-CLAD EVANGELISTS REACH BIKERS FOR CHRIST: PRINCETON, MINN. (EP) — With their long hair and flowing beards, they look like roadies for ZZ Top. They wear leather, and on their backs are huge color patches that bear the ominous-sounding name of their biker club: Sons of Thunder. Many have done drugs. Many have done time. When they roar through your neighborhood on their "chopper" style motorcycles, you hope they're just passing through on their way to a Grateful Dead concert. When their tattooed arms reach inside their blackleather vests, you may fear that your worst nightmares are about to come true. Then they'll probably give you a tract. Sons of Thunder is a motorcycle club like no other. Founded in a church garage in rural Princeton, Minnesota, less than two years ago, the evangelistic outreach has grown to include chapters in Los Angeles, Reno, Phoenix, Denver, and Maryville, Tennessee, with another chapter being organized near Boulder, Colorado. No one is more surprised by this rapid expansion than Gailen Stone, 40, pastor of the Christian and Missionary Alliance-affiliated Open Door Fellowship in Princeton, and president of Sons of Thunder.

ATS DELAYS ACTION ON SOUTHEASTERN, THREATENS ACCREDITATION WITHDRAWAL: WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — Southeastern Seminary has averted loss of its accreditation, but the reprieve may only be temporary. Many observers, including some seminary trustees, expected the Association of Theological Schools to place the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary on probation during the June 10-12 meeting of the ATS accrediting commission. Instead, the commission delayed action on the seminary's status until February while at the same time raising the stakes. Southeastern must now try to convince ATS not to remove its accreditation entirely. During its recent meeting, the commission decided to visit the seminary campus again in February 1991, at which time the school "is to show cause why it should not be placed on probation or have its accreditation withdrawn," the commission's action said.

CIVIL RIGHTS MEASURE FACES UPHILL BATTLE: WASHINGTON (ABP) — Although the U.S. House of Representatives approved a controversial civil rights bill June 5 that will increase the protections of minorities in the work place, bill sponsors fear the legislation will not become law. The 1991 civil rights bill (H.R. 1), which the House passed handily 273 to 158, has been the focus of heated partisan debates and strong rhetoric. The Bush administration and other opponents of the legislation have charged that it is a quota bill that would lead to reverse discrimination against whites. Supporters say the bill simply would restore civil rights that have been eroded by the Supreme Court over the past two years. A similar civil rights bill was vetoed by President George Bush last year. The Senate failed to override the 1990 veto by one vote, and the House made no attempt to override it.

PBS WILL AIR NEA-FUNDED FILM: TUPELO (EP) — Donald Wildmon, president of the American Family Association, says he wants people to be certain to tune in to PBS on July 16 when a film funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will be broadcast. "For two years most of the American public have known of the debate over some kinds of art being funded with tax dollars by the NEA," he said. "However, the number of taxpayers who have been able to actually see any of the 'art' in question has been extremely small." Wildmon said he hopes "millions of Americans will watch the film and see for themselves how their tax dollars are being spent." The film, *Tongues Untied*, will air on the PBS series "Point of View." The film contains "sexual street language rarely heard on television, as well as full frontal nudity and drawings of male genitals," the AFA charged. The NEA provided \$250,000 of the total \$1.1 million budget for "Point of View," and *Tongues Untied* was completed in 1989 for a reported \$40,000. The film about black homosexuals will not be aired in Mississippi. An AFA poll of 320 PBS outlets showed that 202 station managers "found the film too offensive to air . . ."

MARK WINGFIELD ELECTED WESTERN RECORDER NEWS DIRECTOR: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist journalist Mark Wingfield has been elected news director of the *Western Recorder*, newsjournal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective July 2. Wingfield, 29, is associate director of news and information at the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. He has written and edited stories about the denomination's missions efforts in the United States for the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press since 1988. Wingfield will assume a newly restructured position with the newspaper, Marv Knox said. "As news director, Mark will help the Recorder focus on news and feature stories that explain what being a Baptist Christian and doing church work mean, especially in a changing, secular world," said Knox.



Lynn Walker, left, rakes around a bed of begonias while his pastor, Lyndle Davis, right, takes a rest under a giant oak. Their



church, Academy, has been doing some landscaping to get ready for its sesqui-centennial next year.

Blue Mtn. incubator nears 150

By Anne W. McWilliams

Academy Church, Tippah County, is blossoming, getting ready to celebrate its sesquicentennial next year. Church members volunteered to get together one spring day to landscape the grounds — prepare the soil and plant shrubs and flowers. By early summer, pink and white begonias, calladiums, and low-growing junipers had turned the churchyard into a garden.

Lynn Walker, one of the members, agreed to build outdoor seating areas to nourish the fellowship that goes on after church services, beneath the ancient oaks.

Another oak, a famous one, is there no more. It stood beside the road before the highway was widened in the late 1960s. Since the cemetery is across the road, either the oak had to go, or a part of the cemetery. The story goes that underneath that oak General Mark Perrin Lowrey in 1873 drafted plans for the founding of Blue Mountain College. This was while Lowrey was pastor of Academy Church.

Lyndle Davis was pastor of Academy Church in 1968 when the oak had to be cut. He asked that a section of the tree be saved; it was, and is housed in the sanctuary in a glass-front display case. Also in 1968, the sanctuary was moved back farther than the road. The old wooden building was in such a state of disrepair that it could not possibly be

kept as it was, Davis said. "It was even leaning. There was no way we could save it." When a new roof was put on, builders found great old hand-hewn rafters fastened together with wooden pegs. Remodeling included brick veneer. Now, Davis is again pastor at Academy, having returned there from a pastorate of Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc County.

In May of 1842, twelve men and women met to organize a church they called the Church of Christ at Academy meeting house. Nathaniel and Judith Harbin donated the land for church and cemetery in 1843 and 1845.

Blue Mountain College was founded in 1873 as an institute for women by General Lowrey, with the help of his daughters, Modena and Margaret, and chartered as a college in 1877. The school stayed in the family as a private institution until 1919 when it was donated to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The general was first president, until he died in 1885. Then his two sons, William Tyndale Lowrey and Bill Green Lowrey, served in alternate terms until 1925.

Modena married William Edwin Berry, who later also became pastor of the Academy Church (1892-1918). The year they were married, 1876, he bought a half interest in Blue Mountain College and served as professor and part owner until his death in 1919.

Modena, better known as Mother Berry, was "lady principal" and vice-president of the college until her retirement in 1934. When Blue Mountain was given to the MBC, President Lowrey said it was "a gift from Lowrey and Berry families and the Jennings and Hearn families." Later Lawrence T. Lowrey, grandson of the founder, was the college president.

Besides Davis, Lowrey, and Berry, other pastors of Academy Church have been Green B. Waldroup, Randolph, Lee Compere, J. S. Morton, W. H. Holcome, A. H. Booth, Lewis Ball, James Boswell, J. W. Johnson, G. W. Potter, S. V. Gullett, D. P. Randolph, E. S. Hall, Doyce A. Lyons, Charles Stubblefield, Ernest Rakestraw, Enoch Purvis, Jimmy Carr, Allen Pepper, J. A. (Andy) Gore, James A. Lewis, and Mike Bridges. Carr led in building a pastor's home; Lewis led in the building of a family life center.

Now Davis is helping to get ready to celebrate the sesquicentennial. He said often there's such a crowd present for worship services that chairs must be placed in the aisles. Sunday School enrollment is 125. Plans are being made to enlarge the choirloft and move it from the left of the pulpit to the rear of it.

Employee fired in April sues Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A woman fired by the Foreign Mission Board in April is suing the agency for \$1 million and charging she was a victim of discrimination because of her sex.

Beverly Pierce, 51, of Mechanicsville, Va., filed suit in Richmond Circuit Court May 31 alleging two counts of breach of contract and one count of sexual discrimination under the Equal Pay Act.

Employed in 1977 by the mission board, Pierce was assistant director of missions ministries in the board's public affairs office when she was dismissed April 15. In that post she scheduled speaking engagements for missionaries on furlough in the United States and helped coordinate World

Mission Conferences. These conferences are special mission programs in which churches in an area hear missionary speakers tell about their work.

Pierce charges she was wrongfully dismissed and was penalized for initiating a formal employee grievance while a member of the board staff. She also contends male employees of the board received higher pay than she did for similar work.

Board officials declined to comment on the charges because litigation is pending, but said a response to the suit by the board's attorney denying all charges was to be filed with the court June 27. No court date has been set.

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